Routes to tour in Germany

The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there – to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both.

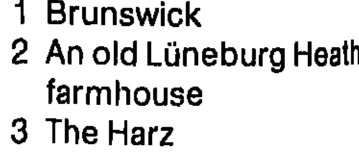
The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-year-old town of Goslar.

The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



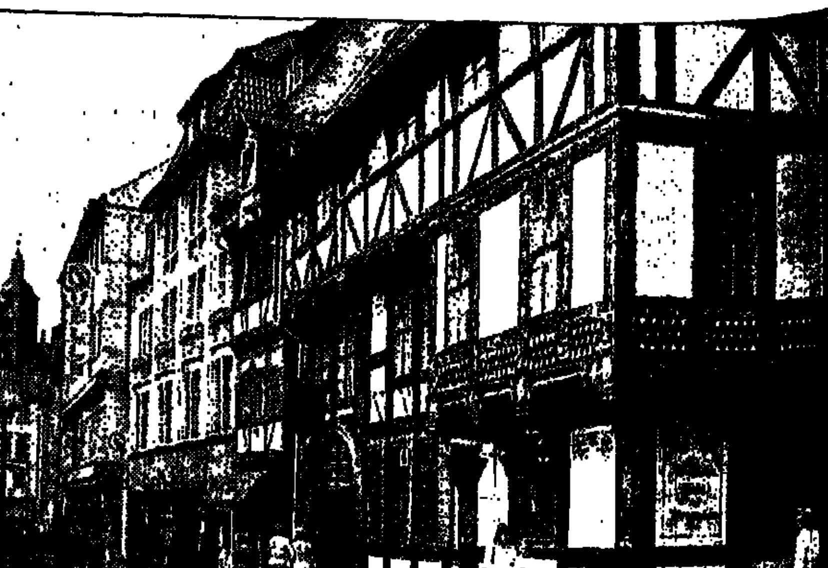




1 Brunswick
2 An old Lüneburg Heath farmhouse
3 The Harz
4 Göttingen







The German Tribune

Hamburg, 19 August 1984
Twenty-third year - No. 1145 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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East Berlin, once the good boy, is in Moscow's bad books

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Who would have thought it possible: East Germany, paragon of socialist virtue in Eastern Europe for many years, is now the main butt of Soviet criticism.

The open Soviet rebuke of the GDR reveals the cracks in the relationship between the leading socialist power and East Berlin as well as other socialist states.

For a long time the GDR was extremely unpopular among its so-called brother nations, and action taken by the German leadership did nothing to rectify this image.

During the sixties, for example, a period in which other Eastern socialist states were trying to improve their relations with the Federal Republic of Germany, the GDR immediately stepped in to adamantly object to any such reconciliation.

Then the head of the East Berlin party, the SED, Walter Ulbricht, was intransigent in his insistence on sending in troops, with East German help of course, to put an end to the Prague Spring in 1968.

Over the years an image had thus emerged of the good and the bad Germans. The former were to be mainly found in the Federal Republic of Germany, while the others, with their know-all and cavilling manner typical of the Ulbricht era the GDR. The East Germans found it very difficult to make friends.

However, times have changed. Erich Honecker, following in Romania's and Hungary's footsteps, is gradually leading the GDR onto the course of emancipation.

The current head of the SED is no longer willing to neglect East German interests merely to satisfy the Soviet Union or the socialist community of states.

He now intends bringing his country's full weight to bear in order to protect these interests.

This not only applies to the field of German-German activities. Emancipatory tendencies also emerged during the Comecon economic summit held in Moscow in June.

The commentary of a high-ranking Czechoslovakian party official in the Czech party paper *Rude Pravo* revealed that the economic ties between certain Eastern European countries and the West are an internal point of controversy.

There was strong invection against particularism and "efforts to obtain one-side benefits from the capitalist world and its financial and other institutions". Prague was obviously doing some of Moscow's dirty work in this particular instance.

On the other hand, *Neues Deutschland*, the SED party organ, re-printed an interview recently given by an important Hungarian functionary to a Budapest newspaper, in which he emphasised the positive effects on international relations of constructive ties between the smaller and medium-size Western and Eastern European states.

What is more, some commentaries on the visit to Hungary in March by GDR Minister-President Willi Stoph indicate a certain identity of interests between East Berlin and Budapest, at least with regard to their economic relations to the West. In fact, Hungary's party leader, Janos Kadar, and head of the SED, Erich Honecker, often use a similar vocabulary. Asked in an interview to comment on the strained relations between the Soviet Union and the USA Kadar remarked: "In the current situation we believe that dialogue and the maintenance of relations are particularly important".

In an issue last week of *Neues Deutschland* Erich Honecker returned yet again to a statement he made in November last year: "It is of the utmost importance to seek a dialogue with all forces responsible for the fate of their peoples and mankind and to be willing to come to an understanding".

The flank support given recently to East Germany's Deutschlandpolitik by the Hungarian union paper *Nepszava* is therefore no mere coincidence.

Eastern European states have been aware for some time that they cannot in future expect too much from their "Big Brother".

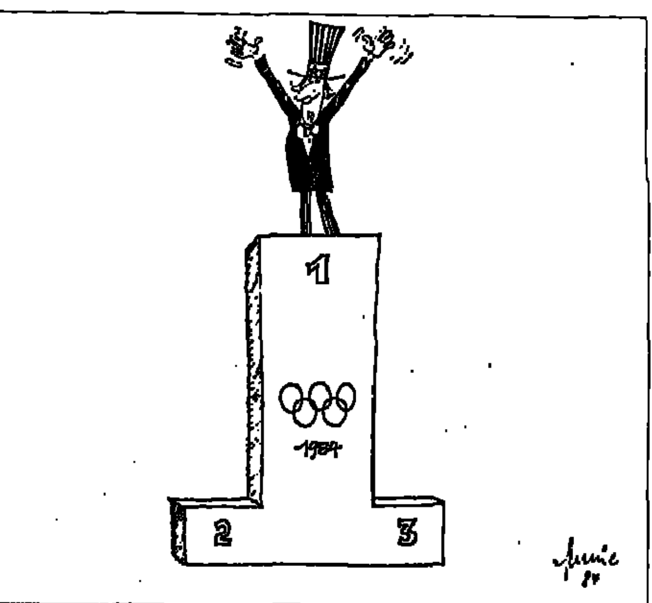
In the foreign policy field Moscow is trying to commit its allies to Gromyko's course of breaking off the dialogue with the West. After all, the socialist states successfully managed to ensure that their trade with the West would not be restricted.

In its efforts to obtain in the West what it cannot get in the East the GDR undoubtedly has the function of trailblazer. As opposed to the other Eastern European countries it also enjoys the benefits of intra-German trade. The GDR's high level of industrial development and sophisticated technology are also aspects its socialist neighbours feel are worth emulating. East Germany automatically seems to be assuming the role of leader. The greater the freedom gained by East Berlin in the pursuit of its own interests, the greater the chances that

Continued on page 3

And now for the German miracle!
(Cartoon: Wolter/Lübecker Nachrichten)

IN THIS ISSUE



(Cartoon: Mussil/Frankfurter Rundschau)

Olympic Games critics got it all wrong

Lübecker Nachrichten

Like all countries which have staged the Olympic Games, the USA grasped the chance to turn the occasion in Los Angeles into a home game.

All those who tried to run down the world's greatest sports festival with their premature criticism and boycott action have been proved wrong in the most impressive way possible.

The most impressive aspect is that show financed itself. It cost the taxpayer nothing.

Four years after the socialist parade in Moscow the private organisers in Los Angeles have demonstrated what kind of show capitalist democracy in the form of the American way of life can put on.

Big Mac and Coke did nothing to damage the Olympic idea, nor did the participation of obvious professional athletes.

The Olympic spirit has yet again left the absent East bloc athletes as the big losers of a political tug-of-war, just as it did the western athletes four years ago.

Admittedly, a great deal of what the Americans presented seemed rather odd: the Hollywood-style opening ceremony, the marketing of the Olympic flame, the fanatic, almost hysterical local crowd.

The incredible prices of tickets, of hotel accommodation, and of food and drink, were major talking points.

However, the tremendous welcome given to the athletes and the naive en-

Continued on page 5



■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Moscow's errors of judgment improve Reagan's chances of re-election

Süddeutsche Zeitung

There is no sign of a thaw in relations between America and the Soviet Union despite efforts towards normalisation.

For example, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, has already been assured of a most polite welcome when he goes to New York next month for the United Nations General Assembly.

Gromyko was unable to come to the Assembly last year after the Americans refused him to land in New York following the shooting-down of the Korean airliner by Soviet aircraft.

The Soviets have no reason to like Reagan. Yet they always seem to make the same mistakes. Which would seem to result from their ignorance of the way public opinion is formed in western societies.

They overestimated the strength of the anti-missile movement in the West and underestimated the fact that political pressure creates counter-pressure.

Now they want to punish us for the errors of judgement they have made.

Their judgement of the current mood in the USA and the significance of the US Opposition is equally erroneous, and instead of hitting Reagan where is hurts with their campaign they are in fact improving Reagan's chances of election success.

Soviet behaviour is making it even easier for Reagan to act as if he is leading the USA into a new to-morrow.

The boycott of the Olympic Games by the Soviet Union and its satellites has given Reagan the kind of Olympic gold he can turn into votes. The economic upswing in the USA is working in his favour too.

The only field where he has to work on his public image in that of foreign policy. Many voters are doubtful about the effectiveness of his security policy line.

However, the opacity and ineptitude with which Moscow first suggested a space weapons conference in Vienna and then apparently dropped the whole idea altogether has left Reagan in the pose of the peace-lover, whose outstretched hand has been rejected.

Whatever Moscow's motives may have been for the proposal they completely misjudged Reagan's response.

In all probability they expected - in line with their own "image of the enemy" - a rejection of the proposal; or they may have hoped that Reagan would have been so eager to hold negotiations as soon as possible (for election reasons) that he would be willing make plenty of concessions.

This is not, however, the way things worked out. Reagan not only accepted the proposal but was also willing to drop his original insistence on the inclusion of long-range and medium-range missiles in these talks.

He showed himself to be accommodating without backing down on any of the issues at hand.

This is as far as he need go, for talks with the Soviets will no longer make or break a presidential election victory. In fact, agreement to conduct such talks may have even damaged his chances at an earlier stage in the campaign.

Reagan's response has left the Soviets short of breath. The belated demands for a moratorium together with various rather obscure declarations were attempts to lay the blame for the non-occurrence of the Vienna talks at the doorstep of the White House.

However, these attempts lack credibility. The Russians have been conducting the debate on their proposal publicly, and negotiations on a subject as complicated as space weapons and a moratorium for tests during negotiations cannot be started without secret meetings beforehand.

Admittedly, it takes two to negotiate and, in general, two parties are responsible if negotiations break down.

In this sense Reagan's was a much more clever approach: he was not backing down on issues themselves.

The Russians only wanted to talk about space weapons as they fear the superiority of American technology and their own already tested anti-satellite weapons have not been a great success.

Reagan, on the other hand, is not willing to talk about his plans for nuclear weapons in space and only then willing to talk about anti-satellite sys[tems] (ASAT) after his first system has [been] tested.

As Reagan is aware of Mos[cow's] weaknesses he also asked a high pri[ce of] the Russians - the inclusion of l[ong]-range and medium-range missiles [in ne]gotiations. He is not willing to aba[ndon] his own gain without a service in ret[urn].

The idea of talking about all l[arge]-scale nuclear weapons because of [the] impossibility of reaching agreeme[nt on] individual categories has a temp[ting] side to it.

It looks as if the Soviets have wa[lled] themselves in with their missiles.

In view of the technological superi[or]ity of the USA Reagan may be in a m[ore] generous mood after elections.

If he insists on his ASAT system [the] Russians will want to catch up tech[no]logically before negotiations. T[his] would make the world an even more [un]certain place.

Dieter Schröder

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 August [1984])

Soviet propaganda machine keeps up the hysteria

The Soviet propaganda campaign against the Federal Republic of Germany is becoming more and more fiendish.

Three days after Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher issued a written statement underlining, without a hint of counter-reproach, the sincerity of Bonn's relations to the Soviet Union, the official Soviet press agency *Novosti* referred to a "turnabout" in Bonn's policy course running counter to the German-Soviet non-aggression treaty drawn up in 1970.

At the same time Genscher was trying in vain at a major press conference in Bonn to convince Soviet and Polish correspondents of the untenability of the recent accusations of revanchism.

The Soviet leadership currently seems to be both blind and deaf towards all western arguments, particularly when they are forwarded in Washington or Bonn.

The propaganda steamroller rolls on relentlessly regardless of the facts and official refutations.

The fact that Novosti has used a [welter] of misquotations and untruths to [con]strue that the Moscow treaty is a[...] makes the whole affair even more [gro]tesque.

In reality it is Soviet behaviour wh[ich] is jeopardising the agreement by sud[den]ly claiming that an objective laid dow[n as] part of the German-Soviet treaty, the [let]ter on German unity, is "revanchist".

What lies behind this theatre of [the] absurd?

Anyone who regards the Germ[an-]German rapprochement as the pri[me] reason for Soviet concern is oversi[mpli]fying the matter. Novosti's menacing [ref]erence to the Moscow agreement rev[eals] a broader base for Soviet propagan[da] pressure abroad and the anti-western [sa]bre-rattling at home.

Bonn as a slave to the "militant ch[au]vinism" of the global policy und stra[tegy] of the USA" - this is the spectre haunt[ing] Moscow, inducing it to reject any re[a]sonable proposals and arguments [and] serving to justify its self-isolation.

Moscow hopes that its Eastern Eu[ro]pean satellite states will follow suit.

This time, however, protest is not o[nly] heard, as so often in the past, in Buch[ar]est but also in Budapest and East Berl[in]. This time self-interest weighs more hea[v]ily than loyalty to the socialist cause.

The Soviets themselves will soon re[a]lise that hitting out in blind rage is [in]compatible will the desire for the coo[p]eration with the West necessitated by [its] own economic mismanagement.

Genscher should make this clear to [his] oppositie number Andrei Gromyko [at] the forthcoming meeting in New York.

As an old saying goes: he who so[ws] the wind will reap the whirlwind.

Bernt Conra[d]

(Die Welt, 10 August 1[984])

Genscher tells what German policy involves

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has taken a deliberate step to reinforce his government's policy of detente.

He broke off his summer holidays especially to issue a written statement on the issue.

He took the step because of criticism surrounding the way relationships between the two Germanies is developing.

It is an open secret that many Western governments are not happy over it.

Genscher hoped by making the statement and by calling a press conference, to allay these worries.

Genscher, who has had a pretty rough ride recently in his capacity as chairman of the FDP, handled the tricky subject with extreme self-confidence.

Unimpressed by the accusations made by the Soviet Union of West German revanchism Genscher called for an effective revival of the Western European Defence Union, a defence and security policy alliance of Western European states which has existed for years but only on paper.

However, it was precisely the WEU resolution on the removal of discriminatory barriers to the Federal Republic of Germany with regard to arms manufacture which provided the Soviet Union with a welcome opportunity to step up its propaganda attacks in Cold War style.

Genscher's move is a signal: the West German government's readiness to negotiate with Eastern bloc countries goes hand in with the continuation of a policy of strengthening Western Europe.

Although there has as yet been no official comment by other western governments on the Federal Republic's Deutschlandpolitik it is an open secret in Bonn that its allies have substantial misgivings about its intra-German policy course. Genscher's appeal for renewed efforts in the field of security policy cooperation is an attempt to help dispel them.

At the same time, however, Genscher takes it quite plain that the projected German-German summit in September is extremely important, not only for Germans but also for the strained international relations in general.

Genscher hopes that these top-level talks will produce a joint non-aggression declaration. If this were to be accomplished, it would definitely be in the interests of an amelioration of the East-West relationship.

The slip-ups during recent negotiations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the GDR on travel relaxations would then be of little consequence.

However, the big question is: will Moscow play along with this game? Genscher is moderately optimistic in this respect, a Minister otherwise known for his guardedness.

Genscher has made one thing absolutely clear: the meeting between the two government leaders in Bad Kreuznach is not intended to end up with a mere handshake.

The very least which is expected is the prospect of a concrete result to negotiations.

Stefan Telöken

(Nordwest Zeitung, 10 August 1984)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Questions about manner of the leadership

The Bonn coalition has been having a successful run. But despite this, [th]ere is increasing criticism in the ranks [ab]out the quality of the leadership. And [th]at means Chancellor Kohl,

The government has been doing well: [th]e budget has been revised and there [ar]e indications of a mild economic up[swi]ng.

Inflation is lower than ever and [une]mployment has at least not increased [dr]amatically.

In foreign affairs relations with the [tw]o most important partners, the USA [an]d France, are untroubled.

In policies involving the two German[ie]s, the government has been so suc[ce]ssful, building on the basis esta[bli]shed by the previous government, [th]at it has caused Moscow to react hys[ter]ically.

But the public image of the CDU/[C]SU/FDP coalition is bad. Criticism [w]ithin the ranks is stronger.

The series of avoidable failures is [lon]g – Kiessling/Wörner, the census, [pa]rty donations and the associated ill-[fate]d amnesty plans, the resignation of [Ec]onomic Affairs Minister Lambsdorff, [atte]ndance money, the catalysator mo[tor] vehicle controversy, the missed pre[side]ncy of the European Community, [th]e furore over the Buschhaus coal-[fire]d power station, and negotiations [with] East Germany.

In the Kiessling affair, the amnesty [an]d Buschhaus Helmut Kohl has not left [be]hind the impression that he can solve [sim]ilar problems without fuss and in a [pro]fessional manner.

He still disregards public opinion [wh]ich is put down to criticism of the [go]vernment spokesman within the [c]oalition.

In any event the CSU will continue [w]ith their own third man as a press spo[kes]man.

When failures are the topic for dis[cu]ssion the name of Dr Waldemar [Sc]hreckenberger of the Chancellor's Office will crop up.

He picks up blame like a lightning [con]ductor — mis-management, lack of [co]ordination and chaos with files, now [un]der the protection of his patron, Hel[mut] Kohl.

Now the criticism hails down on Dr Philipp Jenninger, also of the Chancellor's Office, who is accused of dilettantism in the negotiations with East Germany.

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss has asked Kohl to put a stop to the confusion of opinion there is concerning the visit of East German leader Erich Honecker to Bonn.

CSU state leader Theo Waigel let the word mis-management go by unchallenged over the Buschhaus question. Helmut Kohl had his knuckles rapped, recalling the fate of Ludwig Erhard.

It goes without saying that there is massive criticism from the Opposition that spoke yesterday of "the dangerous incompetence of the Chancellor's Office."

But more dangerous for Kohl is the increasing dissatisfaction within the coalition itself.

The Chancellor's Office does not have a nerve centre that can analyse developments, expectations and requirements from all three coalition partners and swiftly produce preliminary solutions. To this could be added a watch on the ambitions and actions of the CDU state party leaders.

The Buschhaus affair, for example, shows clearly how far the determination of the Premier of Lower Saxony, Ernst Albrecht was falsely estimated.

The Kiessling affair also shows that no one had alerted the Chancellor to the catastrophic effect this was having on public opinion. And the amnesty for those who had contributed to political parties and so dodged tax commitments showed how distant the leadership is from grass-roots opinion.

The last example also shows that Kohl cannot rely on the FDP, which is the reason for the miserable public image the government has and evidence that there is permanent conflict within the coalition.

There only remains the CDU to be mentioned and the endless discussions that go on about the ambitions of the party chairman Heiner Giessler that mars the Chancellor's image.

The latest CSU complaints are aimed at the CDU European Community Commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes. And there is a lot to be desired in the cooperation between the CDU/CSU parliamentary parties.

All this has added up over the past few weeks to dreadful muddle. So it is no wonder that within the CDU and CSU there were questions as to the quality of the leadership.

But Kohl does not seem disturbed by this, yet he cannot ignore these views for much longer. A thick skin is in the long run no replacement for leadership ability.

Ekkehard Kohrs

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 7 August 1984)

Talk of a grand coalition

Wolfgang Roth, deputy leader of the SPD parliamentary party, has upset [m]any within the party by suggesting that [aft]er the next election in 1987, the SPD [m]ight enter a grand coalition.

No party is likely to win a majority and [th]ere is a feeling that there will be a shor[ta]ge of coalition partners. Many think that [th]e Free Democrats will disappear and [th]at the Green will be out of favour.

The idea of a grand coalition has been [ar]ound since the middle of the 1960s. 'An opposition outside Parliament [la]unched itself against what was consid[er]ed to be the cartel of power in Bonn, [an]d shook the state to its very found[at]ions.

It should not be forgotten that if there [wa]s a coalition between the two major [pa]rties there would be an increase of votes for the Greens, which is what they probably hope for. The Social Democrats would be harmed the most, for they must do all they can to bind the Green supporters to them.

A grand coalition only makes any sense when with a two-thirds majority it can change the electoral system making it difficult for small parties to gain positions of power in government.

The Union has not dared to squash the FDP and today they must have anxiety that the Greens will seek revenge.

It is a pity that Roth had not taken up this line. He could have done it easily because he does not have much to lose.

His major mistake was to think out loud, but that is always perilous in politics.

Bernd Brügge

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 10 August 1984)

Free Democrats try to find their path to a future

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Free Democrats have become so lamed that the question of their very survival as a force in national German politics is now in question.

The party created the conservative-Liberal government but until now does not seem to have discovered what role it should play in that government.

Because of this lack of a strategic concept the party uses its forces in the wrong direction or dissipates them.

Take the latest example: the new Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann (FDP) talks about cuts in interest rates without first finding out what people thought about it and without being properly briefed.

So it was no surprise when Finance Minister Stoltenberg decisively vetoed the idea. The Cabinet did not want to have anything to do with it.

But above all the loss of tax revenue that would be part of this makes a nonsense out of notorious FDP demands for an appropriate reform of the tax system in one phase (in 1986).

And how did the Economic Affairs Minister explain away this flop? He wants to talk more about reducing interesting rates which he would like to see introduced in the life-time of this government.

But in politics it is not so important what is said but what decisions are made.

The attempt to win voters with "we would like to have done something but they would not let us" rarely does a government party any good.

It is a matter of astonishment that the FDP excuses the faux pax that have been made by referring to its narrow electoral basis, as was done by FDP Justice Minister Hans Engelhard recently.

In a coalition such as the one that governs in Bonn the smallest party has considerable clout, so long as there is not another party around that could take its place as the smaller party creating the parliamentary majority.

This means that the FDP has no chance of playing around with its function of being a minor party.

At the time of the Liberal-Socialist coalition the FDP did not think about how many voters had voted for the party when making its demands to its SPD partner.

Quite the contrary. FDP chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher claimed a kind of right of veto, always with the threat in the background to change coalition partners.

But the question remains of why the FDP does have so many difficulties in playing with resolution its role in a coalition under a Chancellor whom the Party so much favoured.

Was it so much easier under former chancellor Helmut Schmidt because Genscher then (and certainly towards the end) found himself in a coalition that, deep within, he did not want (any longer) to be a member of?

He is a man who seeks for harmony. Could he then more easily cut a figure because he did not have so many inhibitions with his SPD chancellor than is the case now with Kohl, his political contact man since the 1960s.

And there are the personal aspects in politics. The energetic entrance succeeds more when sitting in the brakeman's cabin in the Socialism train than when sitting as co-pilot next to the leader who is pursuing the right course — from Genscher's point of view.

Only with difficulty has the FDP been able to show how the party can economically and socially advance the policies of the Union in all areas. When it is a question of Liberalism in the legal sense the FDP half the time has to bend the knee to the Union.

Bangemann wants to retail new ideas that attract the young and unconventional thinking voters (who previously supported the FDP considerably). Genscher, sensitive to tactics, is less inclined to this, rhetorically least of all.

In short the present FDP is now so close in thinking to the Union that this can be a life-or-death whirlpool for the party. Strauss alone cannot be the valve inhibiting FDP voters from going over.

Despite having sought to find its own way the Liberal leadership makes its peace within the coalition its prime objective.

There is no one in sight who could direct the FDP on a course all its own.

Then along comes a Gerhart Baum, Interior Minister in the coalition government with the SPD and with special responsibility for environmental questions, who said himself that he had bullied the Social Democrats into industrial envionmental protection, then sits back and does nothing when the rotten compromise about the Buschhaus coal-fired power station is made.

What could he do otherwise? It is the total of these personal problems that make up the political dilemma of the FDP.

Robert Leicht

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 August 1984)

East Berlin

Continued from page 1

other Eastern European states will be allowed more room to manoeuvre. The fate of the GDR will help them find their own bearings.

Of course, the picture varies from one country to the next. Romania has going its own way for some time, Hungary is sticking to its policy of reform, Bulgaria is gradually opening up to the West, and Poland would probably follow suit if it had a free hand.

The only absolutely "loyal" ally is Czechoslovakia. However, perhaps Husak's successor will remember that Prague is situated smack in the middle of Europe.

The Eastern European states are exhibiting a growing reluctance to acknowledge the Soviet claim to power, at least in the non-military field. The course being taken by the formerly "model" socialist state East Germany is sympomatic.

Will Moscow be willing or able to take this into consideration for its future plans? If the hoary men in the Kremlin have their way it seems very unlikely that it will.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 9 August 1984)

■ DEFENCE

Ooops! Latest Tornado crash comes at an embarrassing moment

Since the first Tornado combat aircraft made its maiden flight 10 years ago, 12 have crashed. Fourteen crew members have been killed (they have a crew of two).

The 350th Tornado has come off the assembly line and almost 100,000 flying hours have been logged.

Two years ago the naval aircraft squadron I in Jagel near Schleswig became the first Bundeswehr unit to put the multirole combat aircraft into service in succession to the ill-fated Starfighter.

So, instead of celebrations as one might have expected after a decade, there are mainly justifications.

During the summer off season when news is sometimes hard to find with so many people away on holiday, a news agency produced a list of Tornado faults in catalogue form. The result was a spate of newspaper headlines criticising the swing-wing aircraft.

This prompted the Luftwaffe chief of staff, Lieutenant General Eberhard Eimler, to launch, a publicity counter-attack.

A special press conference was held in Bonn at which several Tornado pilots spoke of their confidence in the aircraft and its sophisticated technology and said how enthusiastic they were about the ease of flying it. They told about its comfort and how safe it is compared with other aircraft.

A four-page paper by the Defence Ministry tried to take the wind out of the critics sails by saying that many of the deficiencies had either been rectified or were *in the process of being rectified. Other* alleged faults were incorrect.

But then fate struck a foul blow. Hardly had the conference ended when the news came over the teleprinters: another Tornado had crashed, this time in Italy.

A spokesman for the aircraft's manufacturer, Panavia, said: "We need this about as much as we need a hole in the head".

Altogether, since the aircraft's maiden flight ten years ago twelve Tornados have crashed. Fourteen of the 24 crew members lost their lives during these crashes.

No two accidents have been the same. Some have been surrounded by somewhat mysterious circumstances, such as the crash near American radio station near Holzkirchen on July 6 this year, whereas other's have been almost comical, for example the case of the British Tornado which had to be abandoned by its crew because they didn't know how to jettison a recently introduced additional tank after the plane had been hit by lightning.

The first Tornado crash in 1979 was a case of British test pilots paying too much attention to the many highly sophisticated gadgets and devices and forgetting to look at the altimeter during a low-level flight.

In 1980 both German test pilots died in a crash after starting an aerobatics figure too low.

The Tornado then enjoyed a crash-free period up until 1983, when a British mechanic forgot to fit an electric switch properly.

Shortly afterwards, another British Tornado crashed into the sea after the pilot had a heart attack - the navigator was safely rescued.

In January this year the German air force and navy lost one plane each - and two pilots - within a week because the respective crews had manoeuvred themselves into "uncontrollable flying conditions".

In June this year another aerobatics attempt flown at too low a level led to disaster in Italy.

In July a Tornado collided with a Jaguar combat aircraft in England, and the British crew of another Tornado was forced to bale out over the Canadian Goose Bay airfield due to problems with the landing flap.

The circumstances surrounding the most recent crash in Italy are still unclear.

In the case of the Holzkirchen crash it was confirmed that the beam of the US radio station was one of the factors for the failure of the aircraft's electronic piloting system.

However, as airforce chief Eimler points out, "there must have been some other reason too".

A second Tornado only 150 metres behind the fated plane found its way safely back to its base in Nörvenich.

One of the aspects which still has to be clarified is why the Royal Air Force was more strict in its application of regulations on keeping a minimum distance than the Luftwaffe before the crash.

Most pilots who have switched from the Starfighter to the Tornado are initially wary of the new plane with its highly sophisticated computer technology.

However, the doubts expressed about the statements made during the press conference are unjustified. Even when the "boss" is out of earshot Tornado pilots stick to their positive opinion of the aircraft.

But the number of anecdotes about technical deficiencies is almost a standing joke. For example, don't leave the aircraft standing in the rain too long "for in the rain a Tornado is like a sieve".

Dampness is the worst that can happen to the plane's electronics system, and has in fact often been a real problem.

The blazing sun is no better either as it may warp the Plexiglas top of the cockpit — although the Defence Ministry claims that this problem has now been "removed".

Since the *Tornado* was first introduced there have been hundred of "technical alterations", either to remove the "teething troubles" or more serious basic deficiencies.

There were times when technical problems and the lack of spare parts left only a third of *Tornados* in an airworthy condition. This has now risen to over 50 percent, which is an acceptable figure says Eimler.

The spare parts situation was the only negative aspect during the Nato controls conducted at the end of May this year, in which the naval pilots, the first Tornado squadron assigned to NATO, otherwise recieved "marks" ranging between "good" and "excellent".

There were, however, murmured complaints in Luftwaffe circles and among the Allies about the extremely tough control yardstick; many naval pilots themselves, on the other hand, talked of missed training opportunities.

In view of this generally positive response to the plane, says navy spokesman Rainer Mecklenburg (himself a Starfighter pilot), the Tornado "does not deserve a crash-landing during the summer".

However, the statement made by Chief of Staff Eimler that the introduction of the new weapons system will be "no picnic" still stands.

In the intricate network of conceivable technical sources of error and human shortcomings there can, as Eimler emphasises, be no guarantee that there will be no accidents at all. All that can be done is to make efforts to minimise risks.

For after all, a Tornado ready for take-off costs DM42m — but you can't put a price tag on a human life.

Alexander Szandar

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 July 1984)

5-nation joint plan for a Euro-fighter

Five European countries have agreed jointly to build a fighter aircraft for the 1990s.

But some Nato authorities are skeptical. *They think that the plan is too cum*bersome and that it may become a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth.

The five countries are West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Spain. They intend putting 800 of the as yet unnamed aircraft into service from 1995.

Each plane is expected to cost between DM40m and DM50m, cheaper than the Tornado (about DM60m).

It is hoped that other European countries will also buy the aircraft.

The joint character of the whole project opens up realistic prospects of a European air force at the end of the century.

As the British explained, the new machine is expected to be a match for any US aircraft.

Will the US airforce one day even employ the Euro-aircraft to equip its units defending Europe?

Although it is easy to stretch the imagination, Brussels emphasises that, should the project fall through because of the usual European national eccentricities, the following would suffer:

- the conventional, modernised defence system for Western Europe, which requires an aircraft of this calibre equipped as an interceptor. Only such an aircraft can make it appear credible to the East that in case of conflict the West could achieve air superiority without resorting to nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, it would convince Moscow that targets on the ground could also combatted without the use of nuclear weapons. The raising of the "nuclear threshold" is one of the guiding principles of Nato stragegy.

- Europe's taxpayers, industries and consumers.

Instead of producing 800 aircraft, each country would produce less on a national basis — at higher unit costs. This is where the taxpayer would have to help out.

Another possibility is that more expensive aircraft would be imported from the USA to the detriment of European foreign exchange balances.

What is more, the technological impetus accompayning such an order would also be lost. This spin-off effect, however, has been a major reason for successes by the Japanese and the USA in the field of civil aviation, which in the United States alone has created 20 million new jobs as well as introducing new, inexpensive and modern products over the past 15 years.

Last December the air force chiefs of staff of the five countries involved in the project reached agreement on the scope of tasks for the combat aircraft.

It's primary task will be to establish air superiority, and only secondarily to combat targets on the ground.

France's willingness to compromise on this point paved the way for a fair divisioin of the construction work for the aircraft among the industries of all five nations.

France originally demanded a 50 per cent share of work for the project. Together with the Federal Republic of Germany and Britain it has now settled for 23 to 26 per cent, with Italy and Spain accepting a total share of 25 per cent.

A feasibility study, to be completed by March 1985, is to continue the exact form the aircraft will take.

One major question which has yet to be solved is whether the aircraft will be fitted with the existing British Motor RB-199, an engine jointly developed by France and the American company General Electric or a completely new engine altogether. The latter solution is favoured by both London and Paris, albeit to the respective benefit of their own industries.

Nato sees the pioneering role of the Federal Republic of Germany and France in European arms cooperation as the driving force behind European cooperation as a whole.

Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand together with their two Defence Ministers, Wörner and Hernu, have made great efforts to forge a close partnership between their countries in the field of armament policy. They have the greatest number of joint projects in this field in the whole of the western world.

However, as Defence Minister Wörner points out:

"We are always open to further partners". This also applies to the new aircraft, a logical approach as this would mean a greater number of aircraft and subsequently lower unit costs.

This is why Paris and Bonn regard such cooperation — on their own, but possible together with other European countries — as a starting point for "two-way traffic" across the Atlantic.

It is hoped that Canada and the USA will purchase more and more of these weapon systems in Europe.

The USA alone accounts for forty per cent of the total turnover of aircraft engines in the non-Communist world. The American companies always have the best prices.

However, magnanimity usually ends when it comes to arms cooperation. The German MTU company, for example, competes together with Fiat, Rolls-Royce and three Japanese companies against the French company SNECMA, whilst the latter for its part joins forces with General Electric to compete against MTU.

There again, competition does bring down the prices and improve the quality.

Hermann Bohle

(Kieler Nachrichten, 17 July 1984)

PERSPECTIVE

Los Angeles Olympics: scaling the heights of Mount Olympus

These Olympic Games in Los Angeles have exceeded expectations in many ways despite the East Bloc boycott.

The USA itself reaped the Olympic gold. Non-stop TV coverage has been presenting Uncle Sam, a medal -raking champion, tossing the golden, silver and bronze coins into his folded Star-Spangled Banner.

Yet no-one originally expected things to turn out this way, even the Americans themselves. When the final decision was taken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1978 to award the contract for the 1984 Summer Games to Los Angeles — the only candidate by the way — even top American sportsmen and women were sceptical.

Is this desert of a city, Los Angeles, the right place for the Olympiad? Will there be a positive response to the idea? At the time, the inhabitants of Los Angeles rejected the idea of paying even a cent out of their own pocket for the Games, and the government in Washington showed no inclination to provide any financial assistance.

Back in old Europe, the Lord Mayor of Munich again expressed his willingness to stage the Games. Yet again, the curious Germans were willing to help out in need.

No-one really thought the Games would be a success.

When the Soviet Union, and in its wake all *the* other countries of the East-bloc with the exception of Romania, decided in May this year to give the Americans the cold shoulder and opt out of the Games, it looked as if the Games were destined to die an early death.

The International Olympic Committee was in danger of losing the billions of dollars it stood to gain by holding the Games financed completely by the private sector. The top-class media event raised by the ABC TV company looked like turning out to be a misnomer much to the disappointment of the waiting TV viewers.

Anyone who has watched to Olympic festival taking place in Los Angeles, however, knows that this was an incorrect assumption.

Although the Olympic Games are not everybody's taste no-one can claim the Olympic spirit is dead. It's alive, the world stands startled and a little alarmed at the way in which it is being exposed.

America has courageously taken hold of these Games, which part of the world chose to ignore, and has firmly stamped its own character upon them.

Rarely have American athletes fought for victory with such self-abandon. For many decades we saw a different kind of typical athlete from the New World, particularly among the track and field athletes: relaxed and carefree, brimming with talent, but also lacking in discipline, often missing an event because of oversleeping — a winner in passing.

In Los Angeles, however, the American athletes look as if they have suddenly realised the seriousness of life as an athlete: helmet firmly tied-on, their fighting faces a bit more solemn than usual.

What a change since the days of Mexico City in 1968. No more black-gloved fists clenched in rage, only the black super-athlete, Carl Lewis, running around the track with the Stars and Stripes.

What the Americans have set out to do in California is not just stage the Olympics, but to scale Mount Olympus.

The organisers have been unable to resist the temptation of exaggerated self-presentation. In the eyes of many onlookers the eruption of national feelings has born the marks of a national awakening.

Sworn to their patriotic duty by President Ronald Reagan, it lookes as if the US Olympic team was at long last giving America a sense of achievement, sweeping away the complexes about Vietnam or Watergate.

However, caution is due when it comes to rash interpretations, for the risk is great of overinterpreting sportive events.

Of course, there have been cases during these Games in which jurys have been influenced, almost blackmailed, by the mood of the spectators. The shrill concert of national — chauvinist — partisanship.

However, more frequently than not the real problem has been poor judges. In many cases, athletes have been declared winners who would never have won elsewhere, floating on a wave of national support for the local Olympic hero.

But isn't this the same in the world over? There has always been an advantage of playing at home, a perfectly legitimate one at that.

Rolf Gölz, German cyclist, summed it all up after losing against his American rival in the finals, because the spectators had got on his nerves:

"I lost the German championship in Büttgen because the spectators supported the other man in the final. It was a similar situation in Los Angeles..."

The great but small world of sport. During the 1980 Moscow Games the organisers opened the Marathon Gate on time for the Russian javelin thrower — to give him better wind support.

The really new thing about Los Angeles was something completely different. Like no other Games before them, these were TV Games.

The TV company ABC has monopolised TV coverage and quite openly preached to its viewers the one-times-one of national high spirits. Chauvinism?

The whole thing revolves around market strategy. Anyone criticising this approach must seriously ask himself the question, how many foreign Olympia winners would be shown on German TV if we were ever fortunate enough to win over fifty medals of our own!

The *Chef de Mission* of the German athletes in Los Angeles nevertheless felt it necessary to address a few pithy words of protest to his host. After all, we understand a lost about chauvinism here.

However, those who seek political, chauvinist or other motives for the Los Angeles "happening" may well overlook the most likely explanation. Perhaps the athletes, spectators, officials, helpers and all the others over there in Los Angeles are quite simply having a great time and enjoying the spirit of the Games.

Olympic sports and those actively involved have in the past generally had to play second fiddle in the United States to the more popular national types of sport, such as baseball, basketball and football.

During these Games many as yet uninitiated fans discovered the appeal of the Olympics for the first time.

It must have been a great experience on both sides; the athletes feeling the kind of power support in their own country they had never had before, and the spectators, in unison with their heroes out there fighting for their glory.

The Americans have dominated these, their Games. This does not contravene the rules of hospitality.

They have managed to win the lion's share of the medals, spurred on by the cheering home crowd. As so often when the Games are held at home, a special energy is released, powers previously unknown unleashed.

There's nothing wrong with this. After all, that is what the Games are all about. Moscow's wagging finger complaining about the American's surging thirst for self-presentation is superfluous. They should have sent their own athletes to Los Angeles to readjust that picture.

One thing is certain: no-one believes that a superiority in terms of Olympic medals reveals the superiority of any political system.

Despite the exhibition of national exuberance, the commercialisation, the political misuse, the world will remain fascinated by these Games until the very end.

The explanation why, if we need one, is much easier than chauvinism researchers would have us believe. Not nationalism, not commercialisation, not politicisation , nor any of the other "evils" lie at the centre of it all. The real point of interest, inexhaustible and always topical, is man himself.

Man himself is still the main factor, still incalculable in the calculable world of competitive sport. It is his history we are interested in, which fascinates us, moves us; his fate, his failure, his triumph. He deserves our admiration, our respect, our anger.

The athletes fighting for Olympic medals are not alone. They are our acting representatives, heroes in our stead, figures with whom we can identify on the stage of sportive passion. As spectators, their achievement is our achievement, their suffering our suffering.

Memories

The pictures presented during these Olympics will stick in our memories.

The wrestler who, with almost superhuman effort, managed to maintain his bridge whilst his opponent held him in a *headlock; the javelin thrower,* who was favourite to win but failed to get beyond the qualifying heats; the bemused face of German swimmer, Michael Gross, who sees another swimmer snatch gold; and finally, the utterly exhausted women's marathon runner, who almost endangered her life by giving her utmost to complete the course.

Everyone who has watched the Games has his own special memories; everyone who was a spectator in Los Angeles will take his own personal experience back home.

Admittedly, some of those who won the Olympic laurels this time can thank Moscow's boycott of the Olympics.

Yet what counts is victory or defeat. Envy or resentment cannot change that. For spectators and athletes alike, each individual must scale his own personal Mount Olympus.

Aloys Behler

(Die Zeit, 10 August 1984)

Olympic Games

Continued from page 1

thusiasm of the American spectatorsare more important aspects which will stick in the minds of those who watched the games at home as well as those who went to the halls and stadiums.

Who would have thought that sports such as football, handball, hockey, canoeing, fencing or dressage, which were almost totally unknown in the USA before the Games and where there were no real medal hopes for the Americans, would be able to fill every seat in the stadiums?

Apart from the long travelling time between accommodation and arena, a factor difficult for those who have not been the United States to appreciate, the athletes did not have any great problems. Security caused little discomfort.

The competition sites were good and everything was perfectly organised.

The organisers cannot be blamed for the usual problem of victory or defeat often depending on the subjective decision of judges who often showed their all too human weaknesses. The professional sports associations must simply make sure that their judges are up to standard next time.

Some great performances were put on by outstanding athletes such as Carl Lewis, Michael Gross and Daley Thompson. But there were also plenty of unknowns who snatched victory from out of the blue: the Moroccan women's hurdler Moutawakel, the Australian swimmer Jon Sieben, the German judo contestant Frank Wieneke, to mention but a few.

This is what Olympics is all about and this is what we should remember if we feel disappointed about the number of medals our athletes managed to win.

For as soon as all the "programmed" favourites like Lewis, Gross or the German dressage riders automatically take all the medals the Olympic idea will have died.

Kuno C.M. Peters

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 12 August 1984)

■ THE ECONOMY

Tough enough to shrug off metalworkers' strike

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

West Germany's economy came through the recent metalworkers and printers strike with a couple of black eyes, says the Economic Affairs Ministry, in its latest monthly report.

But it says that the economic depression of May and June was probably only temporary and that an upward swing will resume in the second half of the year.

Growth for the year overall will be between 2.5 and three per cent.

Industry's inclination to invest was obviously robust enough to overcome the temporary burdens of a strike without putting a heavy strain on the economy.

Demand from abroad fortunately developed well. Foreign orders for capital goods rose continuously.

In May and June there was trouble for the country's favourite child, the motor industry. There were big setbacks in foreign and domestic sales, particularly for expensive models such as Daimler, BMW and Porsche.



Mass producers such as Volkswagen, Opel and Ford came through with less difficulty because dealers had larger stocks.

The effects of the strike on the motor industry was not so devastating as it was feared.

Now manufacturers are hoping to fill the production gap by going flat out with capacities and working extra shifts.

In other industries as well the situation is not so bad. Just a glance in the economic pages of a newspaper any day of the week is informative.

There are plenty of headlines that read like this: "Cotton — all factories working to capacity", "Lufthansa earmarks almost a billion for investment", "Coastal shipowners see no risks", "Leasing: Stable investment climate in the most important branches", and "West German labour costs do not mar competitivity."

West Germany's economic policies were given edifying praise recently from an international source.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that the reason why the Federal Republic's growth rate last year failed to be as high as expected was because of an "optimal combination of consistent fiscal policies, flexible monetary policies and systematic structural policies."

It is indeed astonishing that despite economic growth over the last few years West Germany has not created additional jobs, unlike the USA.

The reasons for this are higher real wages, less mobility, rigid work rules and above all high social benefit costs.

But none of this worried the IMF. The Fund's directorate sees favourable economic growth opportunities this year. The constant West German fiscal and monetary policies promote growth, strengthen confidence and promote investment. Does this mean good times for the economy? It ought to mean that but the atmosphere in the economy is very gloomy. The Munich IFO Institute reported in its latest economic survey that expectations in trade and industry over economic development during the next six months have worsened.

The strike and its after effects lie heavy on employers' hearts.

There is talk of market difficulties in consumer demand and fewer incoming orders than were expected in the capital goods sector. In the wholesale and retail trades there is growing scepticism. In warehousing in the first half of the year there was a real deficit, although the warehouse people see improved chances for the rest of the year.

All in all the economy is confused. At the present once more the feeling is obviously worse than things really are.

And in fact it is foolish to expect employers to break out in euphoria as soon as the labour dispute is concluded, particularly when the results of the strike in the engineering and printing industries, for instance, were a compromise that could affect the economy as a whole. This is at least the view taken by the Ministry.

Nonetheless industry is containing the effects of the agreed reduction in the working week and the increase in wages that have added to production costs.

At present industry has greater flexibility available in the employment of plant. This is comforting. But it will take some time before these assessments of the economy, certainly correct, have any effect in improving the climate in industry.

And there remains the question whether the pessimism that is apparent over wide sectors of industry in fact only had its roots in the recent labour dispute.

It is indisputable that the situation on the labour market has not been eased. The unemployment figure cannot be brought down — in June for the first time there were slightly fewer job openings than at the same period last year.

It was satisfying to see, however, that short-time working had noticeably dropped.

There are no signs that this trend will be maintained. The general opinion from the labour market is still not very hopeful.

Bonn's summer policies are also confusing. The dispute about the sale of cars that do not pollute the environment

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Economic expectations

Real growth in %

USA | Japan | Fed Rep Ger | 3,4 | 3,0 | 1,3 | 6,0 | 3,6 | 3,0 | 3,0 | 2,8 | 2,5 | 1983 | 84 | Estimate | 85

Prices in %

USA +5,3 | Fed Rep Ger +3,3 | Estimate 1985 | +4,0 | +3,0 | +3,0 | Estimate 1984 | +3,9 | +3,0 | +2,3 | Japan | 1983 | +1,9

imu 84 08 01

Source: OECD Economic Outlook



Economic Affairs Minister Bangemann ... looking up (Photo: Poly-Press)

Between now and New Year, it's up all the way

Martin Bangemann, Economic Affairs Minister, sees many signs to confirm the view that West German's economic upswing will gain the upper hand in the rest of the year.

On Wednesday Bangemann placed before the Cabinet an extensive analysis of the economy which stated that in the second quarter real economic growth dropped about one per cent, compared with the first quarter, as a result of the strike in the engineering and printing industries.

It is now expected that there will be an economic growth rate of 2.5 per cent for 1984. Before the strike the government had predicted an increase in economic production of between three to 3.5 per cent.

Bangemann has come to his prediction for these reasons: the strike in the engineering and printing industries has ended with results "that are justifiable for the economy as a whole." But there are other economic factors that work in favour of a continuation of the economic upswing.

The international competitivity of West German exports is considerable, prices are over a winde range stable, production is well balanced and manufacturers' orderbooks have improved.

The growth process has been further supported by progress in re-organising state finances and the latest decisions as regards reform of the income tax system.

Lastly the international outlook has improved. It is estimated that world economic growth this year will be in the region of seven per cent.

If the growth rate for 1984 of 2.5 per cent is to be achieved productivity in the second half of the year must regain its dynamism and increase from last year's level of 2.5 per cent to three per cent.

Economic Affairs Ministry experts believe this is attainable because of the "back-log effect" and generally favourable industrial conditions.

Bangemann sticks by tax reform in two stages, in 1986 and 1988. However in case there should be a turndown in the economy next year he has not ruled out that the second stage would be brought forward to 1986. The Ministry said that under pressure from unemployment that had been hardly reduced at all the central economic task of the government would be to bring about a "lasting reduction" during the rest of the legislative period.

But this could not be achieved alone by a greater use of production capacity. The lack of jobs could only be rectified by a strengthening of employers' investment plans for growth.

Going into details Bangemann listed a reduction of bureaucratic obstructions, the privatisation of state-owned companies and services and a phased reduction of subsidies. The creation of new capital would be considerably stimulated if company and stock turnover tax were abolished.

The government was investigating this so as to make it easier for medium-sized firms to get quoted on the stock market, in the form or regulated unofficial dealings.

Bangemann said that he agreed with Finance Minister Stoltenberg that the coupon tax of 25 per cent on fixed bonds for foreigners should be abolished. A speedy decision must be made on this point, so that captail market demands are heeded.

He said that central government and the federal states must hammer out as soon as possible a new demarcation of regions to be promoted.

Bangemann plans to put considerable emphasis on the own-capital aid programme that has the creation of jobs as a component. CDU/CSU demands for aid to people to set up a business with savings were to be stepped up so that a bonus within the scope of the own-capital aid programme would be granted. People who had saved money over a long period would be the ones who would qualify for this bonus.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 August 1984)

IDEAS

The utility-orientation-of-rats argument — or, is this what life's all about?

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Have notorious utopian idealists and down-to-earth realists really got anything to say to each other? This was the question running through the discussion in Munich between philosophers and economists, organised by the Civitas association.

Civitas has been working ambitiously and successfully for five years to establish a dialogue between the various sciences.

This time it was able to attract many prominent speakers, particularly from the economic world: Karl Brunner (Rochester/USA and Berne), one of the "old boys" of modern political economics, and James Buchanan (Fairfax/USA), whom many expect to win this year's Nobel prize for economics.

Association chairman, Peter Koslowski, feels that this encounter almost has a "pilot function", reminding us that philosophy and economics have not always been such strangers to one another. The fact that Adam Smith, Karl Marx and John Maynard Keynes were both economists and philosophers is all too easily forgotten.

The discussion showed that the meeting between the two disciplines is still, and perhaps more so now than at any time in the past, a fascinating one. An essential prerequisite, however, is not merely to think in terms of mathematical functions, price ratios and cost calculations, but to seek the foundation, the image of man, underlying this the sciences.

The discussion in Munich was at least able to provide a partial diagnosis of our intellectual heritage in this respect.

As always, the central topic was the basic concept of economics, the so-called "principle of utility maximisation", a concept which has rapidly become firmly embedded in the minds of modern man.

It refers to the familiar idea that human reason, viewed as a cool and calculating approach to decisions, seeks the highest personal "gain" at the lowest personal "cost", implying that anyone who does not calculate prices with maximum personal benefit in mind acts in an "irrational" manner.

For many of the economists taking part in the discussion in Munich the logics of cost and benefit are marked by such a natural compulsiveness that they seriously backed up their statements by referring to the behaviour observed during experiments on animals.

Steven Wiggins (University of Texas), for example, pointed out that rats also calculate exactly how much time and energy they need for eating and are willing to switch to another kind of food if this time and energy (in case of human beings, the "price") is out of all "economic" proportion to the ultimate gain of the effort invested.

Even one of the most professed critics of economic orthodoxy, Mark Lutz (University of Maine), who originally intended issuing an appeal for a radical "humanistic" re-interpretation of economics, was so spellbound by this axiom that he began arguing along the lines of such experiments with rats.

Although human beings and rats may well show similar behavioural patterns in terms of their utility orientation, the question still remains, what about human "ethics"? Isn't this the specifically human quality which distinguishes rational man from the irrational animal world?

How do economists react to behaviour which apparently has nothing to do with the cost-benefit rationale, for example compassion, love, despair or a feeling for justice?

The strictly economic explanation proved both unsatisfactory and disillusioning; apparently "ethical" conduct was either interpreted as being merely an extremely complicated form of human self-interest or simply dismissed as "foolishness".

Yet there are theoretical approaches which are more palatable to human dignity and acceptable to economists.

Karl Brunner, for example, despite all his justified pride in the empirical findings of economics, was willing to qualify the claim of these findings to universality.

Two scientists from Paris provided evidence for the presumption that there are other criteria for human behavioural motives than just that of personal gain.

Louis Dumont took a closer look at the historical roots of the economic way of thinking and presented material from ancient times showing a decisively supraindividual approach.

Serge Kolm traced the outstanding growth rates recorded for the Japanese economy back to the markedly anti-egocentric roots of Buddhism, i.e. a way of thinking which does not comply with the strict logics of *homo oeconomicus*.

However, these remarks could only skirt around the question of how the science of economics views man and his underlying motives.

In this respect it was much more clever in tactical terms, and much more honest with regard to assessing the usefulness and disadvantages of economics as a science, to leave the subject of "ethics" out of the discussion altogether.

In particular, James Buchanan met with general approval by trying to do precisely that.

He concentrated on the mechanism of markets, which he regards as spontaneous, decentralised and absolutely non-normative institutions able to function in ideal cases without any outside intervention. All that is needed is a set of fixed rules to provide a guarantee to each individual for his property and the validity of contracts.

The "qualitative" nature of this canon of rules is of no importance; in Buchanan's opinion, the laws which maintain the market are no "more moral" than arrangements made before a "game of poker".

Buchanan thus abandoned any claim he may have staked in his capacity as economist to make statements about human beings as a whole. He failed to provide an answer to the question of why each individual taking part in this poker game is different or why individuals have varying criteria their moral decisions.

This was where the philosophers were expected to come into their own, but they almost missed the opportunity to take up the challenge. They picked up the gauntlet too half-heartedly, almost pussyfooting their way through the discussion.

Wilhelm Vossenkuhl (Munich) advocated an independent category of ethical reason alongside and in addition to the economic cost-benefit consideration.

Fiedrich Kambartel (Konstanz) expressed doubts as to the meaningfulness of seeking one single explanation for human behaviour.

Hans Albert (Mannheim) drew the audience's attention to the fact that there are other definitions of freedom apart from just the freedom of choice underlying the whole of economics as a kind of sacrosanct axiom.

And Peter Kolowski underlined that human beings by no means feel more subjectively free just because there is an increase in the possibilities between which they can choose.

Taking stock, therefore, what did the discussion achieve? Did the antipodeans manage to find a common denominator?

This would be an exaggerated claim. Yet this was an oppurtunity for the public to take a closer look at a science with which we are confronted day in, day out.

The alarming discovery, however, was the extent to which economists have turned human beings as a species characterised by the gift of "reason" into beings who only think of their own personal gain.

It was therefore high time for the kind of encounter which took place in Munich.

For no-one can really be interested in leaving the question of man's self-conception at the level of comparisons between human beings and rats or economic markets and games of poker.

Irene Meichsner

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 2 August 1984)

Continued from page 6

has made buyers and dealers uneasy. And the discussions about the coal-fired power station at Buschhaus have been irritating. The political explanation of possible surpluses in unemployment insurance creates uneasiness.

The increase of value added tax comes under suspicion that it will be used as a means for indirect subsidisies, whilst industry's demands for a reduction in subventions have not been met.

The European Council of Ministers goes off for holidays perplexed. How the financial gap that looms up for October will be filled is anyone's guess. West Germany's image in the EEC has taken a knock on account of its lone efforts, put into operation and planned.

This list could be extended without difficulty. So it is no wonder there is no enthusiasm for anything.

Summing up: after the summer break the Bonn government must pursue economic and social policies that are evident and all of one piece if it wants the economic upswing to continue.

Fides Krause-Brewer

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 3 August 1984)

■ **PUBLICITY**

Council cracks down on offensive advertising

The West German advertising standards council doesn't have the authority of the law, but its public censure is feared.

Its role is to stop advertising from being deceptive, sordid and offensive.

Misleading advertising, such as implying false qualities to alcoholic drinks, is likely to land an advertiser in trouble with the council.

In one case quoted in the council's half yearly report, an advertisement featuring a seductive pair of red female lips pouted over a lolly was charged by a woman with using women as a sex object.

The council is involved in the grey area between what is permissible and what is deceptive or sordid, areas where there is no legislative prohibition but where advertisers can overstep the mark, over step taboo areas to many people.

Since the council determines matters without the authority of the law it can only be a private, voluntary panel.

Four members of the council come from advertisers, three from the media, two from advertising agencies and a representative of the advertising profession — ten in all. Their task is to impose on advertising self-discipline, which is unique in the western world.

Anyone can complain to the council about advertising, where the media where it was published cannot take any action.

Recently the council let it be known that its area of concern would take in the new media.

The sanctions that the council can impose when an objection is raised are modest but effective. If an advertiser will not withdraw or alter an offending advertisement, public censure follows. This can be so unpleasant that it rarely needs to be used.

Chairman of the council Dankwart Rost, who is on the Siemens management, had nothing but praise for the cooperation that existed between the advertising sector and the council because an objectionable advertisement was basically immediately withdrawn.

Thanks to this self-discipline West Germans are better protected against the wild men in the advertising industry than others in Europe.

Occasionally the advertising industry has to be protected from people with too much fantasy who complain about advertising. Alleged "discrimination against women as sexual objects in advertising" plays a special role in this.

The truth is that half-clothed or naked women are not so frequently seen in advertising.

The central committee of the West German advertising industry carried out a survey last year of advertising in mass-circulation publications and came to the conclusion that in most cases the unclad woman made sense.

If an advertiser wants to present a shower to the public he can hardly have a women in a high-necked dress standing under it. The discrimination here involves avoiding having a naked man under the shower. According to Dankwart idiotic complaints about advertising are not now so frequent as they were earlier.



Bonny lass, Bonny lips

Designer Doris Schlüter-Casse with her prize-winning design for a logo to promote Bonn. She used an imprint of her own lips as a substitute for the 'o'. (Photo: Ard.)

The council was called upon to make a judgment on an advertisement which read: "Overalls at prices the unemployed can afford." The council ruled that in the first place an unemployed person does not need overalls and secondly the unemployment problem should not be used to promote merchandise.

A mail order house was given a rap over the knuckles for sending out a customer letter that read: "If you have not ordered by the end of the year we shall have to consider sending a staff member to you to find out the reason."

Cosmetic manufacturers have come up against the council in promises to get rid of wrinkles, as did the author of a book on superstition who got into trouble with his own direct advertising that assured purchasers of his book: "Your life will be instantly altered, you will get rich, you will get the partner you have always dreamed about."

The ten save a lot of legal wrangling and they have made life for legislators easier making too much bureaucratic meddling unnecessary.

The council has had regulations in effect since 1974 governing advertising for and with children, and since 19[illegible] guidelines for advertising alcoholic beverages.

The industry that is just as much worried about official meddling as it is about public censure by the council keeps to the rules.

A few days ago the council warned car dealers "that in future aggressive car advertising would be condemned."

And the council was in earnest for it has said how objectionable an advertisement was that read "The car for any kind of hunt, the car for the hero of today."

Hanna Gieskes

(Die Welt, 7 August 1984)

Circumbendibus, labyrinthine. If any, state causality

Kurt Tucholsky complained "Forms, forms from the cradle to the grave."

In the meantime the annoyance seems to have grown. The flood of superfluous forms and printed matter is characterised by incomprehensible content and obscure purpose.

It is no surprise then that many people when presented with a tax form or even the railway time table look at it with complete incomprehensibility.

It is not highly qualified designers who layout official forms but the technical drawing department, or even the printers that do the job.

This is why so many people are just floored by forms and the officialese in which they are written.

The association of West German graphic designers (BDG) tackled this problem at its national meeting in Cologne whose theme was to discuss the quality of the information provided to citizens by government departments and why people were so often totally perplexed by official forms.

The aim was to make the public aware that a professional designer was needed for this work.

When anything has to be changed that has been written or drawn up for public information, a specialist designer, trained for this should be called in, according to designer Knut P. Christ in conversation with the Kölner-Stadt Anzeiger. He dealt with matters concerning the public during the conference in Cologne.

Contact had already been made with ministries. The West Berlin designer Erik Spiekermann, now works for the Federal Posts whose forms are often irritating.

Apart from form design officialese came in for a great deal of criticism. A simple receipt for stamps is called: "A certificate in respect of postage stamps in total value of DM . . ."

As an example of impossible form design the BDG quoted the parcel post form: there is not enough space for the addressee and the form includes too many different type faces and lines, leading the BDG to the comment that any apprentice for design doing his examination would fail if he offered this.

Christ goes further with his criticism. He maintains that printing official forms in this way is an image of Federal Republic realities, "public financed homes" in printing, rectangular, purposeless, hateful, boring, misanthropic, optically offensive.

The explanation is that authoritarian thinking lies behind these forms, Spiekermann maintained. He would like to see that the public were accepted as people and not as "citizens of the state".

A pious hope, but there are plenty of examples of when this does not happen. The 1.3 millimetre high small print used in time tables and the 1.4 millimetre print used in the telephone book were regarded as quite unwarrantable. The same applies to the minute print used in the printed material of pharmaceuticals. It is hard to find positive examples.

The Rheinisch-Westfälische Elektrizitätswerke came in for praise for its electricity bills that are clear.

Lessons can also be learned from abroad, mainly from the Dutch. There are twenty designers in the government printing office. Christ said: "The government shows that it takes citizens seriously."

The positive effects of good design can be shown by the example of London buses. When a new route plan was produced which showed clearly the bus stops and stops to change routes instead of the previous mish-mash there were 50,000 more passengers a day.

The BDG, that with only 1,200 members is a small association, has come up with an original plan. A sticker is to be distributed with the words on it: "This form is hideous" to be stuck to a form that has to be sent back to a government department.

Emmanuel van Stein

(Kölner-Stadt Anzeiger, 26 July 1984)

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

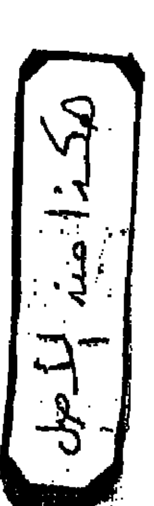
Dies ist häßlich!

☐ Drücken Sie es doch einfacher aus!

☐ Eine übersichtliche Gestaltung macht's noch verständlicher!

Bund Deutscher Grafik-Designer e.V.

The bad-design sticker says: This is terrible! It should be more simply expressed. It would be easier to understand if it were laid out more clearly.



■ THE MEDIA

Memo to journalists: conform please, or you're out

Süddeutsche Zeitung

For many, journalism is a great job, even though it may not be held in highest of social esteem.

This opinion is above all shaped by the often dubious type of journalism which is more interested in sensationalism than in the seriousness of a report.

However, the sound work carried out by the vast majority of journalists is all too often overlooked.

Those who set the tone in politics, industry and society as a whole would prefer to see journalists who conform rather than those who view journalism as the fourth estate and are thus more awkward to deal with.

The pressure of political parties on the decisions to fill posts in radio and television is a good example.

Authorities and other institutions do not approve of too much curiosity when it comes to internal procedure and often try to palm off inquisitive journalists by blinding them with the complexity of the bureaucratic apparatus or by referring to "pending lawsuits". Journalist must often make do with very general statements.

This situation was one of the major reasons behind the trial run of a special course on "Further Training for Journalists" conducted by the Institute for Journalism at the Free University of Berlin (FU) which began five years ago.

After a two-year preparation phase, the first 120 journalists were able to start a three-year study period in 1981.

Almost all students - most of them West Germans not resident in West Berlin - were employed on a regular basis - two-thirds in the print media and one-third in electronic media.

One entry requirement was that students had worked as regular journalists for the press, radio, TV or in other fields of mass communication. A school-leaving certificate or a degree was not required.

The course of study was completed, as it were, as a sideline in the form of a correspondence degree course. Students only had to take part in six seminars in Berlin, each lasting eight days.

The curriculum consisted of basic information in the fields of history, law economics, politics, cultural affairs and communication studies.

During the seminar held in Berlin the aim was to learn how to handle specific problems such as urban renewal, rationalisation or sport.

77 of the 120 students who began the course have now completed it with an official university degree.

Those who took part in the course as well as the six consultant experts (from the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and Switzerland) were so impressed by the experiment that they recommended that this course of studies be established as a regular degree course in the curricula of the Free University Berlin.

The editor-in-chief of the *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (Essen)* Siegfried Maruhn, points out in one report on the experiment that journalists are forced daily to familiarise themselves with specialist new fields of activity.

In this sense the concept of the course in Berlin is "ideally suited to fill an existing gap".

700 journalists have already applied to take part in future courses if the university decides to accept the recommendation of the experts and offer the course on a regular basis.

Many other university town are seriously thinking about copying the Berlin model.

However, despite the overwhelmingly positive response it is doubtful whether the course will be accepted as a firmly established part of the university curricula.

Berlin's Senator for Science and Education, Wilhelm Kewenig (CDU), is hesitant. Although he knows that experts have shown a "clearly positive" reaction to the experiment, there are problems as regards entry requirements and financing.

Kewenig also points out that Berlin's universities must think of initial training opportunities first before providing financial support for further training courses.

The final decision on the matter has been postponed until after the three unoccupied chairs for professors in Journalism have been filled.

Kewenig does not accept the accusation of unnecessarily delaying things. He would like to wait until "those who can pass objective judgement on the issue" have stated their case.

However, the Senator would like to see some kind of "transitional solution which would not preempt any final decision on the discontinuation or continuation of the further training course."

Admittedly, the staff of the course have no idea what is meant by such a transitional solution.

The Institute for Journalism has stated that it would only need about DM 1 mn per year to finance the course - a thousandth of the university's DM 1bn budget. Each student would therefore need between DM 5,000 and DM 7,000 a year.

Up to now, students have had to pay about DM 15,000 out of their own pockets to take part in the course.

The Senator also has access to a special fund, which is intended to provide structural funds for key ad-hoc educational measures.

Those interested in continuing the model course, which up to now has cost approximately DM 4 mn - half of which is financed by federal funds, complain that the positive response to the course doesn't fit in with Kewenig's plans.

This may well be true. The acedemic administration would apparently like to see the school-leaving examination *(Abitur)* introduced as an entry requirement for the course. This would ruin the original concept as well the basic appeal of the course.

Some of the social-democratic opposition politicians in Berlin would like to see the issue taken out of the academic administration and brought into Senate. They feel that Kewenig neglects the positive political effect of the project on Berlin.

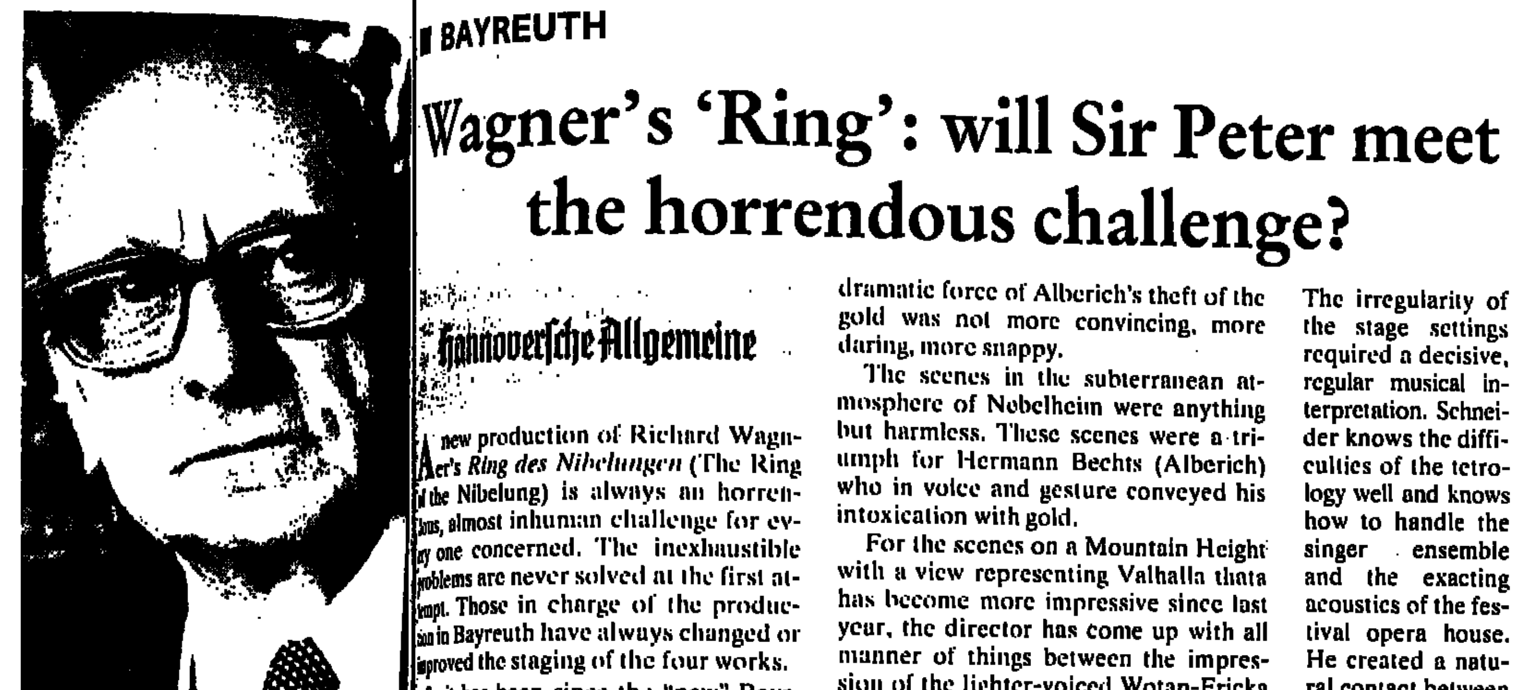
The "newspaper" city of Berlin could then provide a more differentiated image of the city by attracting interest from all over the Federal Republic of Germany. At present, Berlin has a very negative image in many newspaper reports.

Most students who were on the course in Berlin claimed that their picture of the city had improved due to their research work there.

Further training also had other effects. The students who completed the first course have published a series of books, the content ranging from the problems of journalists in the Third World *(Dritte Welt für Journalisten)* to football *(Der Ball ist rund)*.

Volker Sklerka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 July 1984)



Fritz Sänger . . . resisted Nazis (Photo: dpa)

Veteran scribe dies at 83

Fritz Sänger, one of Germany's most outstanding journalists, has died in Munich at the age of 83.

Working as a journalist, writer and politician, Sänger was an untiring champion of the freedom of the press.

For a long time he was editor-in-chief for the *Deutsche Presse Agentur* (dpa) and helped draw up the *Godesberg Programm* for the SPD.

During the Nazi years, in which he often found himself out of work, he was an active worker in the German Resistance to Hitler.

Sänger went into politics at the end of the 1950s and was a member of the *Bundestag* between 1961 and 1969.

He also was a member of the Press Council.

His memoirs were published in 1978 under the title *Verborgene Fäden* (Hidden Strings).

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 July 1984)

A think tank for mass communication

The scene could not be more austere: four people sat on plain chairs in a bleak room.

The topic they are discussing is not exactly red-hot news either: "How Christian is Europe Today?"

And yet somehow the event taking place on the screen is a fascination one, the reason being the simultaneity with the various aspects are presented.

Each individual point of view - the French, the British and the German one - seems familiar and has been dealt with often enough before.

However, the simultaneous presentation and direct comparison between each contribution to the discussion not only helps see each individual aspect in relative terms but also constitutes something completely new, a kind of European synthesis.

The experiment described here took place in a darkened room on the university grounds in Manchester and reveals the objectives of the new European Media Institute, a kind of think-tank for European developments in the field of mass communications.

In an era of comprehensive television programmes and multinationally orientated newspapers this research institute will be seeking solutions to the complex political, psychological and legal problems accompanying developments in this field.

It is not as if there are no national research efforts in individual countries.

However, as the topics and planning of individual projects show, the idea is try to establish a (West) European approach.

The list of those taking part in the "experiment" reads like a *Who's Who* of the European media world.

The Institute is sponsored by the University of Manchester and the European Cultural Foundation in Amsterdam, whose President Karl-Günther von Hase, was formerly director of the ZDF and is currently ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in London.

The Institute's director is George Wedell, professor for communication studies with many years of pratical experience in this media field, gathered during his years working for the EEC Comission in Brussels.

Although the advisory bodies and the research group proper have a strong international leaning, the venture itself, which began a year ago, is almost a totally British affair.

Ninety percent of the financial backing comes from Britain, most of it being provided by the commercial British television company and the University of Manchester. The latter provides virtually the entire infrastructure, i.e. study rooms, library, equipment and typists.

Of course, the intention is to extend this framework via greater support from other European countries. Up to now, however, there have only been a few rather symbolic donations by the Federal Republic of Germany from the Cultural Department of the Foreign Office in Bonn and from Inter Nationes.

The Institute hopes that its projects will help earn some of the money urgently needed for extension.

There is a broad sprectrum of clients interested in the completion of studies by the Media Institute, including the EEC Commission, Unesco, the Dutch radio company and the radio station *Freies Berlin*, which has asked for a small study on cable systems as a kind of trial commission.

The ongoing projects conducted by

Continued on page 11

■ BAYREUTH

Wagner's 'Ring': will Sir Peter meet the horrendous challenge?

Hannoversche Allgemeine

A new production of Richard Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen* (The Ring of the Nibelung) is always an horrendous, almost inhuman challenge for every one concerned. The inexhaustible problems are never solved at the first attempt. Those in charge of the production in Bayreuth have always changed or improved the staging of the four works.

So it has been since the "new" Bayreuth until Wieland Wagner's era. It was the same with the French team of Chéreau and Pierre Boulez a few years ago whose bold exposition of the *Ring* came as a bombshell, although many Wagner fans fought bitterly against it. The very avant-guard French production of the *Ring* in previous years was eventually accepted and all, friends and foes alike, found themselves on the same footing.

Whether the same will happen with the British *Ring* of Sir Peter Hall and William Dudley, after Sir George Solti bowed out, was the big question this year.

Rheingold (Rhinegold) aroused great hopes for the whole. Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre in London, seems to be luckier in his direction of the singers than he was last year.

Stage designer Dudley succeeded with some impressive details. Seldom has an audience seen such a splendid scene with swimming and singing Rhine Maidens in water that seemed to be flowing as here. It was a pity that the dramatic force of Alberich's theft of the gold was not more convincing, more daring, more snappy.

The scenes in the subterranean atmosphere of Nebelheim were anything but harmless. These scenes were a triumph for Hermann Bechts (Alberich) who in voice and gesture conveyed his intoxication with gold.

For the scenes on a Mountain Height with a view representing Valhalla thata has become more impressive since last year, the director has come up with all manner of things between the impression of the lighter-voiced Wotan-Fricka pair and the heavy giants Fasolt-Fafner wearing gaudy masks.

And when mention it made of the wonderful idea of the rainbow on which the Gods ascend by steps that cannot be seen into Valhalla, then approval cannot be withheld from the "Prelimninary Evening to the Festival Play).

There was a cold shower awaiting the fastidious Bayreuth audience when the curtain went up on the first act of *Walküre* (The Valkyrie). What pseudo-romantic realism in the settings for Hunding's dwelling, what a narrow-minded art nouveau theatre effect, what an operette setting for the spring. It was like something in the cinema with the brother and sister singing to the "May Moon". There was no dramatic effect in the last duet. Hall had staged this without thinking. The tragic final intermezzo between Sieglinde and Siegmund was, however, musically rewarding and gave a lasting impression, because Jeannine Altmeyer, inclined to high drama and Siegfried Jerusalem were in splendid voice. Their diction was good which can only be said of a few of the performers. Hanna Schwarz (Fricka) can articulate in a very sharp-tongued manner.

At short notice she took the part of Waltraut in *Götterdämmerung* and played it wonderfully getting special applause from the audience.

A particular delight was Siegmund Nimsgern who with his refined voice and his well-considered acting was splendid in the Wotan-Wanderer role.

What a break in style there was between the outmodish scenes of the first act of *Walküre* and the abstractions for the wild craggy place (Felsenberg) of the second act with a white-silver unity of colour on a giant stage.

There was considerable excitement to see what conductor Peter Schneider would do with the new *Ring*? Much was already known about his interpretation. The irregularity of the stage settings required a decisive, regular musical interpretation. Schneider knows the difficulties of the tetrology well and knows how to handle the singer ensemble and the exacting acoustics of the festival opera house. He created a natural contact between the festival orchestra and the stage. He produced sharp-cut highly dramatic accents as he went along. By nature he tries to balance the lyrical and the dramatic. Sometimes it seemed that he took too earnestly the supple accompaniment of the soloists, so that the musical excitement, the dramatic bite, the forward flow of the whole seemed to suffer.



First act, *The Valkyrie* (Photos: Festspiele Bayreuth)

In the course of the evening Schneider came nearer and nearer to the central point of interest in the *Ring*, the more the singers adjusted to his impulsively dramatic and sensible accompaniment.

It was sobering to see in *Siegfried* how remarkably the conductor had to hold back in order to cover up for the loss of notes by the singer in the title role. What a difficult time Manfred Jung had in the smithy passages. Together with Peter Haage's Mime, who did not have the diamonic power nor the wit needed for the part, he could not adjust to a scherzo as is sometimes marked in *Siegfriend*

It was a pity for Jung when he was mercilessly booed off the stage after the first act by a critical public and Wolfgang Wagner tried to excuse it all by saying that Jung was unwell.

That was obvious. The clouds of fog that the director used in scene after scene last year were reduced with regard to the singers' voices.

Later Jung did better things, although he did not have anything sparkling in his voice, but he had a magnificent partner in the phenomenal Hildegard Behrens, who, from a singing and acting point of view, is the queen of the *Ring*. The slick scene change from landscape to the Felsenberg in the third act of *Siegfried* from which Anne Gjevang, singing Erda emerged from a many-branched tree stump was amazing. Wieland Wagner's influence was to be detected in the barren area for Brünnhilde's awakened love. The dragon, constructed by Dudley, breathing fire and smoke was a fabulous beast of legend.

Aage Haugland's Fafner voice and Siegfried's trial of strength directed the public's attention to the fact that Hall in specific moments in his production confronted a romantic fairy-like situation with all the technical progress that is available at Bayreuth in his *Ring*.

There were the tricks with the tilted acting area for the Valkyries. But should a singer such as Brünnhilde be swung up and down on the stage as if in a circus? Such artiste performances are going a bit too far even if it involves Hildegard Behrens.

The British team also succeeded in producing a few splendid moments of theatrical illusion in *Götterdammerung* (Twilight of the Gods). There was the original scene of the Norns and the poetic woodland scene with the illusion of water in which the naked Rhine Maidens swam about whilst talking to Siegfried about the Ring.

And the male chorus in the second and third acts were among the bright spots of the production. Also the architecturally conventional but splendid Gibichungen Hall at the end when Brünnhilde kindles the world to flames and collapses.

There were well emphasised points, well illustated arrangements but no continuous dramatic focus, particularly in the second act where the director lost his way in managing the ensemble. The confusion increased as the act progressed to its close. Fortunately Schneider kept the dramatic concept idling with the festival orchestra.

In *Götterdammerung* Manfred Jung's Siegfried was sung in a much more relaxed way. He was most impressive when he sang in act three, scene two, of his life before the death scene.

Haugland brought a truly deep base to the part of Hagen, almost outsinging Franz Mazura's Gunther that should not have been subdued.

In the end the conductor was on the stage for his orchestra and loudly applauded. It was a triumph also for Hildegard Behren's Brünnhilde. Sir Peter Hall did not appear for the final applause. He had left after the final rehearsal.

Erich Limmert

(Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, 4 August 1984)

A scene from Sir Peter Hall's version of *Rhinegold*

Continued from page 10

the think-tank focus on "European cultural values and national broadcasting institutions", "local radio stations and regional development" and "the media and European tradition".

Although this may at first seem rather theoretical the close collaboration of scientists and established journalists guarantee that projects remain reality-based.

It is no coincidence that the British have taken the initiative in this field. Their political and economic tradition has always supported a broad international outlook.

Visnews, the worldwide operating TV agency, the Reuters new agency and the very international BBC means that London is a first-class media centre.

In addition, one great advantage is that Britain's European neighbours and the Skandinavian countries have more or less accepted English as a working language. It is almost taken for granted that most of the communication within the European Media Institute is carried out in English, French being only used for occasional interpreting.

Apart from Karl-Günther von Hase, the Federal Republic of Germany is only represented by the head of the international production section of the *Deutsche Welle*, Cordes Koch-Mehrin, and the Vice-President of the German branch of the European Cultural Foundation, Robert Picht.

The doors to Manchester, however, are still open wide.

Gerhard von Glinski

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 27 July 1984)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Agency looks back on a decade of cleaning up

Ten years ago, on 22 July 1974, the *Umweltbundesamt* (Federal Environmental Protection Agency) was set up by law in Berlin to tackle the growing problems facing the environment. With a staff of only 450 it has already contributed a great deal towards coming to terms with the myriad of new challenges in this field.

The Agency's task is outlined in the preamble to the 1974 draft bill as follows:

"The aim of environmental policy is to maintain, plan and shape an environment which is healthy and fit for human habitation.

"In order to achieve this objective a central federal institution is required, which can cope with the multi-departmental tasks facing the Federal Government as well as guarantee that all modern information, communication and scientific aids are fully utilised to provide an optimal and speedy service to all institutions dealing with environmental issues, whether within or outside of the federal administration, and help translate the experience gathered into administrative action and legislation."

Ten years later, the *Umweltbundesamt* (UBA) can look back on its clear successes in cleaning up the environment. As UBA President, Heinrich von Lersner, points out Agency staff cannot be called "officials of Sisyphus", for over the years they have removed tens of thousands of rubbish dumps, recycled almost 100 percent of used oil and wrecked cars and increased fourfold the amount of recycled used glass.

The dust and lead in the air has been reduced by two-thirds, and in many fields of environmental protection the Federal Republic of Germany has assumed a leading role in Europe.

However, the celebration of the agency's anniversary will be on a small scale. As UBA spokesman, Karl Tietmann, put it:

"We're not celebrating, we're working."

And this despite the fact that July 22 may well go down in the history books as an historical date, more important for the continued existence of the human race than any victory or defeat of states on some unknown battlefield.

However, even through there have been modest successes in the fight against pollution, this is no "cause for complacency", as UBA President von Lersner points out. The foreword to the agency's anniversary booklet underlines that "things are far from being rosy."

The dying forests, the increasingly high level of air and noise pollution in the cities and the adverse effects of harmful substances on the soil and water are just some of the major problems which are nowhere near being solved.

UBA spokesman, Karl Tietmann, talks of an "explosion" in the problems and tasks facing the institution.

Unfortunately, however, the complaints of agency staff cannot be overheard that the rapid growth of problems has not been paralleled by a similar increase in administrative posts. The agency is chronically understaffed.

At present there are 450 employees, only slightly more than in 1980. Ten years ago it was planned to have a staff of 850 working for the agency.

What is more, the institution has been required to take on even more tasks over the past few years.

Since 1975 the UBA has been systematically checking the substances used for detergents and cleansing agents; since 1977 it has a say in decisions on waste disposal at sea; and since 1982 it has been testing the harmfulness to the environment of new chemical substances in line with the Chemicals Act.

The initial problems associated with the agency's "role as mediator" between environmental research and environmental policies were only temporary.

The discussion whether the existence of the federal agency in Berlin contravened the Four-Power Agreement was also relatively short-lived.

The fact that the UBA is geographically separated from "West Germany", as the Berliners call the Federal Republic of Germany, has not proved a disavantage. In fact, quite the opposite is true.

"There is no better location for tackling environmental problems", says Tietmann.

In no other city is there such a closely interwoven network of scientific and technical facilities for tackling environmental problems as in Berlin, which accomodates the following institutions: the Federal Health Office, the Federal Institute for Materials Testing, various departments of the Federal Biology Institute, departments of the Federal Physics and Technology Institute, two universities and the Science Centre.

The existence of these scientific institutions is an important aspect, the UBA itself having no research facilities as such, frequently commissioning special institutes to conduct scientific studies.

A share of the research funds available to the agency (approximately DM 180 mn in 1984) is therefore earmarked for such studies.

The change of government in Bonn has apparently had no effect on the work carried out by the agency. As Karl Tietmann put it, there has been no "break" in policy emphasis between Gerhart Baum (FDP) and Friedrich Zimmermann (CSU).

Environmental experts had feared radical changes after the current Minister for the Interior (responsible for environmental issues), Friedrich Zimmermann, had virtually refused to acknowledge the topic of dying forests as a serious problem.

As it is, Tietmann is full of praise for his current "employer". Many projects, he remarks, have in fact received greater "impetus from Zimmermann than from Baum", for example in the fields of desulphurisation and exhaust-free cars.

However, there is still a great deal to be desired in this respect.

Leading environmental protection associations have criticised the Ordinance on Large-Scale Furnaces designed to desulphurise power plants as being too lax and lagging behind the latest technological developments.

As regards exhaust-free cars, they claim, Interior Minister Zimmermann is acting under the pressure of individual federal states, which demand the licensing of exhaust-free cars only in EEC countries beginning in 1986.

Horst Schiffmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 July 1984)

A nation-wide probe into forest damage

Two hundred specially trained German forestry experts are currently setting out to establish the extent of damage caused to forests by air pollution.

They will be taking a closer look at about 250,000 trees in 55 forest areas between Flensburg and Berchtesgaden. Those considered damaged by pollution will then be put into four damage categories.

This is the first time such tests have been carried out on a national basis. The data collected will be presented at the beginning of November this year.

In 1983 a third of all trees were classed as diseased.

The sample "stock-taking" method has been scientifically tested and already applied successfully in previous years.

The entire Federal Republic of Germany will be covered by a grid about 4 kilometres wide. At the wooded points of intersection - about 5,000 altogether - 50 sample trunks will be selected and analysed.

Helped only by their binoculars, two-man squads will try to assess the damage caused by pollution by referring to the following criteria: loss of needles, crown transparency, colour of needles, length of the shoots and the needles.

Trees which have lost up to 10 percent of their needles are regarded as "healthy", between 10 and 25 percent as slightly damaged, between 25 and 60 percent as moderately damaged and over 60 percent as seriously damaged.

Richard Lammel, of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, says Bonn, this method is absolutely reliable.

Although trees bearing the marks of damage caused by beetles, snow or game will also be analysed, they will not be included in the ascertainment of the damage caused by air pollution.

Otto Seitscheck from Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture feels that 250,000 samples will suffice to obtain well-founded statistical information on the extent of damage in the 55 natural forest areas between the Fichtelgebirge and the Eiffel.

Manfred Präcklein

(Nordwest Zeitung, 23 July 1984)

Dirty price of staying clean

About one million tons of household chemicals are used each year for cleaning in the Federal Republic of Germany - about 44 kilograms per household.

As the head of the special research department on household technology at the Technical University in Munich-Weihenstephan, Hort Picherl, points out, this means that the household plays a large part in environmental pollution.

Although today's household appliances require much less water, softening salts and chemicals than in days gone by, the use of chemicals has not decreased.

Everyone should, therefore, seriously ask himself whether the desire for cleanliness is not somewhat exaggerated and the use of household chemicals too indiscriminate.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 July 1984)

■ MEDICINE

Wide awake in the middle of the night. Why?

According to the Würzburg-based *Gesellschaft zur Erforschung und Bekämpfung von Schlafstörungen* (Society for Research into Insomnia - GEBS), an estimated 15 million Germans suffer from sleepless nights or wake up much too early.

The GEBS, which has now set up a special Advisory Centre in Munich to help its weary clients, claim that more and more people spend the night tossing and turning, waking up at the slightest noise, switching the light on and off or staring at the clock.

Yet time seems to stand still for these tired souls and the longed-for slumber never comes.

As psychologist Konstantin Ehmund (Munich) points out:

"There are two prevalent types of insomniac: the cyclothymics and the hyperthymics.

"The former are unable to deal with their conflicts during the day and are therefore weighed down by such conflicts at night; in this 'unbalanced' mental state they cannot find the refreshing sleep they need.

"The latter, the hyperthymics, are so thirsty for action during the day that their superactivity continues into the night.

"Both types are tormented by sleepless nights."

Doctors, psychologists and social workers in the new Advisory Centre in Munich have established four main groups of insomniacs:

- men aged between 30 and 37 who are stressed by their work,
- women "around 40", faced for the first time by problems with their partners and families and where there are first signs of the menopause,
- men and women aged between 55 and 65, the so-called *Aufbaugeneration* (the generation which helped build up Germany after the war, particularly during the 1950s),
- members of the generation which personally endured the war years and still cannot sleep properly today because of constant memories of the bombings and their war experiences.

In Munich alone, with its population of over a million, there are an estimated 150,000 insomniacs.

Attempts to cure insomnia concentrate on the underlying causes.

In one case, for example, a woman kept waking up at 4 o'clock in the morning and was unable to go to sleep again.

The psychologists soon discovered the reason: her child had died at exactly 4 o'clock a few years previously. The emotional attachment to the child was still so strong as to jolt the woman out of her sleep at 4 o'clock each night.

Other insomniacs suffer from their fears of society, ego weaknesses and unrecognised and unresolved conflicts.

Psychologist Kühnmund on this problem:

"The first thing our clients learn is to go to bed on an even mental keel and not to hate their place of sleep.

"Each person must then discover his own individual point of 'initial tiredness'. In this respect, there are 'owls', who fall asleep late, and 'larks', who wake up early.

"Depending on which group they belong to, the clients should go to bed early or late."

Breathing exercises, autogenous training and group therapy are designed to help train the concentration needed to learn how to sleep.

The programme of 10 two-hour sessions, each costing DM 35, have helped in 85 percent of cases of slight insomnia, says Kühnmund.

The important thing is to avoid any kind of sleeping pills as well as alcohol, coffee and tea before going to bed. These stimulants prevent the refreshing deep-sleep phase from being reached.

However, there is no such thing as total insomnia. Tests in the Würzburg sleep laboratory showed that everybody sleeps at least two hours each night, even if they claim they haven't slept a wink all night.

Subjectively, they may well be convinced that they has been awake all night.

Nikolaus Dominik

(Die Welt, 31 July 1984)

Homoeopathy becoming more popular among vets

Homoeopathy, the method of treating disease and illness by using only natural substances (vegetable, mineral and animal extracts), is gradually also becoming an accepted practice in veterinary medicine.

The method invented by the German doctor, Samuel Hahnemann, at the beginning of the 19th century, treats "patients" by administering substances in highly diluted form which, if given to healthy persons in greater doses, would trigger similar symptoms.

The case of the sick three-year old bobtail bitch Alpha underlines the advantages of this method in certain cases.

Five different vets issued the same diagnosis for Alpha's illness: an inflammation of the uterus. The treatment recommended by the veterinary doctors was equally unanimous: medicinal treatment would be to no avail, the uterus must be removed.

Such an operation would have meant the "end of the road" for any future breeding plans for the thoroughbred bitch.

However, Alpha's owner then took the dog along to the veterinary medical expert Dr. W. in the Lüneburg Heath, whose methods of treatment differs from those of his colleagues in one vital point: his way of tackling the diseases of his four-legged patients is based on nature healing.

"After giving the animal a homoeopathic substance for about three weeks there was a clear recession of the inflammation", Dr. W. explained.

"The animal has been on heat quite normally twice already and has given birth to eight healthy pups".

As Dr. W. emphasised:

"In contrast to orthodox medicine

Bremer Nachrichten

(allopathy), where the diagnosis is made first and then a corresponding treatment recommended, the homoeopathic approach focusses on the symptoms of the illness".

In line with the classical basic principle *similia similibus curentur* (like cures like), these symptoms are only treated with substances which can be found in nature, and which in fact aggravate the illness.

The underlying aim is to activate the body's own defensive forces and thus overcome the illness via a process of self-healing.

As Dr. W. pointed out, "the decisive factor is the degree of dilution.

"Homoeopathic preparations are available in varying potencies. Precisely those which are highly diluted are the most effective."

The dosage to be administered is exactly determined for each illness in order to achieve an optimum healing effect.

Dr. W. has discovered that the use of homoeopathic medicines in the field of canine gynaecology is particularly successful, for example for afterbirth behaviour, uterine inertia and inflammations of the Fallopian tube.

However, not all illnesses can be treated via the homoeopathic method. There are some illnesses where conventional treatment, for example surgery, is imperative, and certain bacteria can only be destroyed by using antibiotics.

The fact that homoeopathic substances are already being used in the field of productive livestock shows that this approach will gain in importance in future.

The use of nature-healing methods for livestock has the advantage of enabling treatment without a great deal of residue, not the case when using synthetic medicines.

As Dr. W. points out:

"As a billionth of a gram of a homoeopathic medicine can be highly effective, there is, for example, virtually no residue after such substances have been used to treat cattle mastitis (inflammation of the udder)".

(Bremer Nachrichten, 3 August 1984)

The pill makes women fat

Women taking the pill tend to have problems with their weight, according to a study by the University of Erlangen.

On in three German women takes the pill. Of the 525 questioned, 38 per cent had an ideal weight and 47 per cent didn't.

One in seven of the study group was fat, that is more than one-fifth over the ideal weight.

One of four women of all ages said the pill had increased their appetite. This also happened during hormone adjustment in pregnancy.

In the case of fat women, 44 per cent noticed increasing appetite compared with only 18 per cent of women with an ideal weight.

During the first three months on the pill 40 per cent of the fat women reported an increase in weight, four kilograms or more in the case of half if this subgroup.

Only 14 per cent of the women with ideal weight had put on more than three kilograms or more in weight.

However, these women complained more strongly about nausea and vomiting.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 July 1984)

■ MODERN LIVING

Skinheads, the sort of neo-Nazis the neo-Nazis don't really want

More than 1,000 police officers and 120 medical orderlies were rushed to the centre of Hanover on the first long shopping Saturday this month to try and prevent an international meeting of punks being invaded by a force of skinheads mouthing Nazi slogans and hell bent on mayhem. Not much shopping was done: sales were down 30 per cent in the city centre. Official estimates say that about 130 skinheads came to engage 800 punks, but others say that the total warring forces were nearer 2,000. The total number of injured is not yet known, but at least one punk was serious hurt and 26 policemen and two medical orderlies were injured. Most of the injuries came from empty beer bottles and cans hurled from both sides as police attempted to keep the battlelines apart. There were 289 arrests, 13 shop windows were smashed, 10 police patrol cars and 26 private cars demolished. A police motorcycle was damaged beyond repair. Police collected a mountain of weapons including iron bars, chains, and wooden boards with nails. The punks had come from all over Europe, from Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France and Austria. Before the big day, a skinhead had warned: "We'll get those punk pigs." A Dortmund skinhead said: "If those punks come to this town, then we shall get our baseball bats and DO them until there's not a whimper left." In this article, Gerd Kröncke, writing in the Süddeutche Zeitung, looks at the sub culture of the skinheads and their connection with right-wing politics.

Lots of people come to Duisburg from surrounding areas in the Ruhr when, one Saturday a month, the shops are open all day long. On this day shoppers arrive at the Hauptbahnhof (main railway station) to find the concourse crowded with a group of loud, shaven-headed youths grasping cans of beer and dancing a sort of hopping dance.

The noise echoes loudly through the concourse. The cry from hoarse throats announces that "We - are - Germans, we - are - German."

Fifty skinheads hop to the staccato sound of each syllable. They are on the warpath, looking for foreigners, as one of their newssheets puts it.

This day, it doesn't get that far because the police block off both exits to the station. So they have to confine themselves mainly to noise.

A ringleader whips up excitement with angry cries of death to the reds and Germany for the Germans and foreigners out.

Sometimes a refrain can be heard reassuring that "skinheads are for peace, they don't want violence." Some raise their hands in the Nazi greeting. Some hold up three fingers, as they have seen Michael Kühnen do on television. Kühnen is the leader of the banned neo-Nazi party, *Aktionsfront Nationaler Sozialisten* (ANS). He has now gone underground.

The cult of the skinheads originated in the big cities of Britain where youths adopted the tribal badges of shaven head, rolled up jeans, hard leather lace-up boots and military style jackets.

At the end of the 1970s the cult started appearing in Germany, particularly in the heavily industrialised Ruhr area, but also notably in Hamburg and Hanover.

Many of them were former punks who became converted and came under the influence of Nazi ideas and were brought under the influence of various extremists of the political right.

Skinheads have adopted a battle cry of "OI", which is sometimes sprayed on walls or even tattooed on an arm.

Kühnen was once asked where he wanted to get his recruits from. He replied from among skinheads and football fans who, he said, "help us a lot but do not, politically, totally belong to us."

Since then the number of skins has grown and they have become more extreme.

North Rhine-Westphalia Interior Minister Herbert Schnoor says right-wing groups have for some time been making intensive efforts to use skinheads as "draughthorses for their political cart."

This was made easier because of social factors — youths without personal ties, without work and with, in their own words, no future (the English expression "no future" is actually part of skin jargon).

Feelings of attraction towards a tyrannical form of government and xenophobia were being exploited by the extreme right.

When the ultra-right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) held its North Rhine-Westphalia conference at Wiehl, in the mountains near Gummersbach, a force of skinheads appeared as a sort of bodyguard unit.

The police were heavily outnumbered and called for reinforcements as the situation threatened to explode in violence against anti-NPD demonstrators.

One older man, a former concentration camp inmate, was badly beaten up and had to spend several days in hospital. According to a government spokesman, the skinheads chartered two buses themselves to get to the meeting, but the cost was met by a party member.

"Germany awake" and "Jews out", screamed skinheads as they burst through the door of a *Duisburg disco. In* separate incident, also in Duisburg, a man was beaten up and robbed by skinheads, who



Skinheads in Hanover looking for punk scalps confront police with Nazi salutes. Germany's skinheads sometimes allow their hair to grow a little. Which must upset the purists among them. (Photo: dpa)

told him that he was a wino and a foreigner and should get out of Germany.

Sometimes it doesn't matter if somebody is really Turkish or not. A dark moustache can be enough to set the skins off.

Police later caught one of the skins who bashed and robbed the man and searched his house. They found his room sprayed with Nazi slogans such as Heil Hitler and Long Live the SA and the SS, together with an embellishment of swastikas.

Another was caught red-handed daubing "Muslims out" and "Deutschland über Alles" over walls. Some wear steel helmets with SS insignia.

When the right-wing Free German Workers' Party celebrated the 90th birthday of Rudolf Hess in Hagen, skinheads went along to a football match and sang *Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles.*

It was not wise to get too close. A Cologne paper reported 10 to 15 of them either clothed or disguised as punks had attacked a man lying on the ground with iron bars, pieces of wood and stones.

The philosophy is spread somewhere between extreme right and some other point somewhere. It is hopelessly confused.

One 18-year-old bricklayer, for example, told the alternative Cologne newspaper *Stadtrevue* that he was not a fascist. "I say it all the time. I am a Nazi. Most of the others are fascists."

This now unemployed youth went on: "I want a pure Germany, a clean Germany. I want the right people to get into power." The "right people" are those who will act ruthlessly against "that which has got no business here."

However, it is interesting that the NPD itself regards skins with suspicion, at least in certain quarters.

Klaus Schultz, the party leader in North Rhine Westphalia, says: "Skinheads have their origin in Britain, the motherland of democracy." But they tended towards the political direction of Kühnen.

This seems to be grounds enough for suspicion. At the NPD party Land headquarters in Wattenscheid, the doors are open for assorted groups of rightists, but Schultz has shut the door entirely to skins: "In political terms, they have idea what The Right means."

Two had, in fact, applied to join their applications were being given rough consideration.

Frank Schulz (no relation) is 19 years old. He completed his apprenticeship butcher, but the shop ceased to trade because of the competition, and Frank draws dole money and moonlights as labourer on construction projects.

He first shaved his head two years ago when he took to being a leisure-time skinhead. His boots have strengthened toe caps so he can kick better.

Frank describes his philosophy: "If became a punk, that would mean that would be against Germany." He is a good German. He believes he knows where he belongs.

His friend is Sigi, who heads a skinhead group. (Sigi is known as SS Sigi because his manner of speech and willingness to get into a punch up. But Sigi finds the nickname undeserved. And wrong because it was making a mockery out of the SS and in the SS there were only very fine upstanding Germans.)

Frank had not thought about joining the NPD or the young National Democrats. "They're too democratic for me."

Frank looks up to his friend Sigi. It doesn't disturb him that Sigi has been before the courts on several occasions.

The attitude over the Turks is all clear in his mind. Sigi was meant to have said that the Turks should be gassed, just like the Jews.

But, protests Frank, Sigi could not possibly have said that because Sigi knew full well that no Jews were gassed. None.

"How," says Frank, swilling the dregs of his fourth can of beer, could three million be gassed in three years.

"Not possible," he says, and then went into a macabre calculation about how much wood would have been needed in the furnaces to burn the bodies. The answer was clear, of course: there just wasn't enough wood.

The only solution was a dictatorship here in Germany. A führer had to be found among the masses. The masses had to be convinced.

Frank can take a lot of beer: "When I'm full, I'm as full as a bull and I lie down and go to sleep," he explains.

As he was further elaborating his plans for the future of Germany with the new dictatorship, another skin called No Name came across to join in. No Name (used in English) had had a bit to drink and found it a little difficult speaking. But eventually he got the message out: "All nig nogs have got to go so that all Germans get work. Stuff the 35-hour week. We want to rise again with Germany. Why don't I get work?" No Name, no work.

Frank, who is gangling rather than powerfully built, meanwhile warns that if anybody has a go at him, he wades right in and thumps them.

He suddenly remembered what he was meant to be talking about. The wogs had to to. First the unemployed wogs, then the criminal wogs, then the violent wogs. But it didn't really matter in what order. All the wogs had to go.

Frank also knew who was responsible for the entire misery of Germany, not just the unemployment. And was not just the nig nogs in Germany. No. It was the Jews. And Frank could tell us a thing or two about them, he could.

Jews rule the world, they do. Look at Wall Street. They're all Jews. That rings a bell and he gets back to concentration camps. There were camps, Frank admits. But they were for criminals and homosexuals. Which was only right and proper. But they weren't for Jews.

Gerd Kröncke

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1984)

■ CHILDREN

An ever-popular source of cheap labour



Claus von der Heide is a devoted visitor to such events as tennis championships in Hamburg or other sporting events. He is not particularly interested in the sport but he observes the children who collect up the tennis balls or rake the landing pit, who, in fact, take over handyman's jobs of all kinds.

He is an official of the industrial inspection board and is hot on the trail of children at work, on sports fields, or at an annual fair, in a restaurant or a petrol station.

Employing children, that is children given work for a wage or for the gain of an employer is, according to paragraph 5 of the Minors Protection Legislation, forbidden.

The prohibition, however, does not mean that there is no such thing as child employment. Quite the contrary: work for children is either only accepted in connection with countries in the Third World, attributed to the nineteenth century or as a shameful welfare state taboo that is not spoken about.

According to a private survey by Elke and Heinrich Stark von der Haar there are approximately 300,000 working children and the figure is rising.

But this figure is "only the tip of the iceberg," according to Ulrich Schönemann, head of the youth and social affairs department of the West German Trades Union Federation. There is today hardly a job category which does not recruit children, in the main without any kind of employment protection and often with boring and physically damaging results.

There are more than 100,000 children employed in agriculture, on the farm that is a family busines and therefore there is a sense of obligation.

A revision of the Minors Protection Legislation has partly given approval for children to work in the operation of a farm that is a member of the West German Farmers Union, but it is here difficult to ensure that children are not put under too much work pressure and to anticipate excesses beyond the law.

The same is true of a newspaper and magazine company, almost the classical employer of children. In the main the work contract is agreed upon between the publishing house and the parents, but the work is done by the children, so that it can be difficult to control the children's employment. More than 80,000 children daily deliver newspapers and magazines over many hours of work.

The managing director of a major Hamburg publishing house does not fight shy of employing the traditional newspaper boys with the comment that a large number of American millionaires had their start as newsboys.

A few years ago a young person took a part-time job in order to save money to buy a bicycle or a portable radio, but today it is more often than not a contribution to the family's existence. When the father is unemployed and his income is not enough to pay for living expenses then children are sent out to work.

They know only too well that work in our society is rated highly, and those without work are looked upon unfavourably.

Every evening a woman and her twelve-year-old daughter pass through security at Frankfurt Airport to clean aircraft from eleven in the evening until four in the morning. The work to be done is so much that the woman could not do it without the help of her daughter.

The employer is quite satisfied to have the assistance that does not cost him a penny. He also saves by not having to employ another person. The woman's colleagues say nothing about the daughter because they know of the woman's financial difficulties.

The result of the night work for the daughter is that she only has three hours sleep and so at school she cannot concentrate on her lessons.

Until 1964 teachers were obliged to report signs that a child was being employed. The teacher would put the industrial inspection board in touch with the case. But the school lists have been abolished and anyway the inspection department is hopelessly over-worked.

A notification to the police by the inspectors usually nets the wrong people. For the family a vital source of income is stopped. The employer, who takes on children at limited pay, is fined, if fined at all with a negligible sum, which is much cheaper than taking on an adult and having to pay all the social benefit contributions.

Since 1977 employers have been working a special trick. The increasing lack of teachers in schools and the anxiety many young people have of being unemployed when they leave school has brought into existence what is called "trial period of work".

The employer promises the girl or boy an apprenticeship, when they have done a fairly long period on probation, usually unpaid.

This probation period is so long that parents take their children from school, because they see a better chance of them finding a job opening.

Poor school results

The result of this probation period is poor results at school, which gives rise to the argument that a supposedly better candidate will be given the apprenticeship.

For ages doctors and psycholgists have demanded a general prohibition of the employment of children and better controls to see that the rules are kept. These demands were vigorously supported by the West German Child Protection Society and the experts in child employment Elke and Heinrich Stark von der Haar.

According to them children when at schoool should be told of the consequences of child employment, and employing foreign worker children should not be favoured because the children have a shorter period when they must legally be at school.

Child psychologist Gerhard Nissen sums ups his demands for a prohibition against employing children below the age of 16 with the pithy but pungent slogan: "Children must play not work."

Irmela Körner

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 29 July 1984)



High Noon in Gelsenkirchen . . . Turkish children in Germany. (Photo:Henning Christoph)

Early problems confront the offspring of migrants

Maria, a young Portuguese girl asked: "Why do you want us to leave?" She put her question at a meeting recently between parents, teachers and fifteen guest worker children in the Unesco August Bebel School in Wetzlar.

The other children taking part, Turks, Greeks, Italians and Yugoslavs, also spoke of the difficulties they have at school, at home and with the West Germans.

Maria did not take part in the question and answer session. But suddenly she lost patience. She wanted to know what was at the bottom of the anti-foreigner feeling in West Germany that was often so hurtful.

"I believe," said Maria, "that most Germans are against foreigners. But if you are against us why do you go abroad on holiday? Take your holidays in Germany. We like life here and we have a right to remain. No one has the right to throw us out."

A lady teacher tried to explain to Maria that foreigners, brought to the country during an economic boom, should now return home because there was unemployment. Foreign workers were falsely thought to be responsible for unemployment.

This was no comfort to Maria or the others. Their parents worked hard and paid their West German taxes. They wanted to be accepted as people, who had the right to remain or to go.

Insults such as "Kanaka" or "Out with foreigners" were very humiliating, said a 17-year-old Turkish girl Arsun, who spoke flawless German and wanted to study in West Germany. Why cannot the West Germans understand that foreigners are just as good and just as bad as the West Germans themselves.

Most of those who took part in the Wetzlar meeting wanted to remain in West Germany at least until they had learned a trade. They were worried that they had less chance of a job although they had just as good school results as West Germans of the same age.

They were all also convinced that they had fewer chances in their parents' homeland.

The young foreigners also had difficulties when they made friends with a young West German. Young Turk Wedat said that he had trouble with a teacher at school because he was friends with a young German girl. The teacher did not approve of the relationship and spoke badly of the boy so as to break up the friendship.

Greek girl Dimantula, who had already taken her *Abitur*, university entrance examination, is friends with a young German. She reproached the Turkish girl Arsun, because she would not marry a German fearing problems and rejection.

There was prejudice on both sides, that of the West Germans and the foreigners.

From what Dimantula and the others had to say what worried foreigner worker children brought up in this country most was not prejudice, but that they wanted to see their world in a straightforward way.

They would like the German people to appreciate the difficulties they had with their home life, with parents from a Turkish-Islamic or a Greek cultural background, and their German environment without prejudice and to grant them the same rights as the Germans themselves enjoyed.

But the young foreigners were resigned, for they said that only those West Germans who had nothing against foreigners went to meetings such as the one organised in Wetzlar. The ones who were against foreigners never came, not even the politicians for they wanted to expel the foreigners.

The young Turkish girl Sabriye, 17, was an example that children of foreign workers are not always without opportunity in this country.

Sybriye had lived in West Germany for five years, had taken her school leaving certificate, had done two years training and then had been taken on the company's staff.

The 18-year-old Turkish girl Yemoz had been in Wetzlar six years and had trained to be a dressmaker. Seyde, the same age, had attended a medical technicians' school and the Turkish girl Sengül, a year younger, had a trainee secretary post.

Mustafa, born in this country, did not have any problems. He wanted to study here and become a doctor, but then live in Turkey where there was plenty of sun and fresh air. Mustafa is only eleven.

It is to be feared that he will also lose his ingenuous attitudes soon as a result of insults, stones thrown and nasty tricks by fellow West German citizens, and he too will retreat into an environment that becomes increasingly hostile.

dpa

(Mannheimer Morgen, 11 July 1984)